

The Haskell Free Press.

J. E. POOLE,
Editor and Proprietor.

Advertising rates made known on application
Terms \$1.00 per annum, invariably cash in advance.

Entered at the Post Office, Haskell, Texas, as Second class Mail Matter.

Saturday, Dec. 18, 1897.

LOCAL DOTS.

—Mr. J. W. Wright and family have returned to Haskell after an absence of a year or more.

—Mr. S. W. York and family left for Abilene this week, where they will make their home in the future.

—Just come to see me with your cash if you want LOW prices.

S. L. ROBERTSON.

—Mr. J. A. Kemp, senior member of the Kemp Grocery company of Wichita Falls visited our town this week.

—Miss Nelia Bryant of Jacksboro who has been visiting the family of her uncle, Mr. A. H. Bryant, at this place left on Tuesday.

—Dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, &c., all CHEAP at S. L. Robertson's.

—It is thought that county candidates will begin to blossom out when the Christmas festivities are over.

—Mr. A. C. Foster returned on last Saturday from Houston where he attended the annual meeting of the Masonic Grand Lodge.

—Do you want a Mitchell wagon best made, if so see W. W. Fields & Bro., who will sell it to you at Abilene price.

—When sly old bachelors buy residences and order new buggies it is reasonable to suppose that something else will happen soon.

—Ladies come and see our millinery department, its the only First-Class ever here; its private and nice.

T. G. CARNEY & Co.

—Messrs E. L. Roberts and G. W. Hazlewood disappeared one day this week and, it is said, they have gone to Abilene. When you hear the bells ringing you'll know why.

—Mrs. McCollum's elocution class will give a recital at the old court house Wednesday evening Dec. 22nd. An interesting program has been arranged and all are invited to attend. Doors open at 7 o'clock. Admission 15c.

—I am still in the grocery business with a choice selection of first-class groceries—Staples and substantial, just such as are specially adapted to Holiday trade. S. L. ROBERTSON.

—We are informed that the work on the telephone line is progressing at a satisfactory rate. The holes for the poles have been dug from Seymour to Throckmorton and poles are now being distributed on the section from the latter place to Haskell.

—Say boys that little play made on men hats last week don't go. We can knock that play to pieces. Come and see us. T. G. CARNEY & Co.

—The young ladies have organized a new society among themselves which they call the A. A. A's or Triple A's. What it means we don't know, unless it is that old bachelors should take courage and Ask the Angel's Assent.

—If you owe me please remember that this is just the time of year that every creditor of mine wants his money. I respectfully ask that you settle. Now don't think that this is not aimed for you, if you owe even a small amount. Respectfully,

S. L. ROBERTSON.

—Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Lemmon celebrated the 15th anniversary of their marriage on Friday night of last week by entertaining a few friends at an elegant supper.

The guests were Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Tandy, Prof. and Mrs. W. W. Hentz, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Wilbourn, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Collins, Mrs. L. N. Riter and Mrs. J. C. Keller. A very pleasant evening was spent by the party and Mr. and Mrs. Lemmon were the recipients of a number of nice presents.

—Candies of every variety from common stick to the choicest dainties in the confection line. These are especially bought for the Christmas trade. They are the nicest goods in town. You should come at once and make your selection of candies, nuts, oranges and apples. If you don't wish to carry them home now we will mark your name on them and deliver them on Xmas eve evening. Call early. S. L. ROBERTSON.

STATE COW-BOYS REUNION

Preparations for this Unique Affair Already Under Way.

A business meeting of subscribers to the fund for the entertainment of the State Cow-Boys' Reunion to be held at Haskell next August was held on Tuesday afternoon. General Manager Major Smith reported the appointment of committees on certain lines of work. Steps were inaugurated for providing an abundant supply of water for all purposes and for securing control of proper grounds for the entertainment. J. E. Poole was appointed advertising agent and instructed to begin operations at the San Antonio meeting of the stockmen's association next month.

It was reported in the meeting that the impression had gone out in some quarters—or was attempted to be made—that Haskell had dropped the reunion and it was denounced as being entirely without foundation, and the Free Press was requested to say to the boys that Haskell is still with them and that the whole thing is going to be put through according to Hoyle and on schedule time.

—Mr. D. W. Courtwright has a brother from Kansas City visiting him.

—M. Bob Livingood got in this week from the southwest. He says he will remain here until spring and may remain permanently.

—Figure with us if you want low prices. We don't mind losing a few dimes if we can get your love, influence and tongue to going our way.

T. G. CARNEY & Co.

—Mr. Tom Wright and a brother-in-law named Stewart from Williamson county are arranging to start another blacksmith shop in Haskell.

—Take your hides and furs to S. Edwards of Seymour, who will pay the highest market prices for them.

—Mr. Tom Griffin got in Thursday night from Gordon with some horses for Dr. Gilbert. He had the misfortune to lose, by death, a good horse on the way.

—The Haskell jail is full of people, but they are all immigrants camped there and looking for farms to rent.

—"Prairie schooners" freighted with homeseekers are arriving singly and in squadrons. Most of the new arrivals want to rent farms for the first year, but as about all the farms that are for rent have been taken up those coming hereafter should be prepared to put in new land. This is comparatively easy to do on the open prairies where no grubbing is required. Cotton, sorghum, Kaffir corn, milo maize, oats, millet, melons, etc. generally give good crops on new land, and wheat often does fairly well.

MAKE MONEY—
By Drilling Wells!
We have a Ft. Scott well drilling outfit which we are prepared to offer for sale at a bargain.

It is complete and in good condition. Write us.
Ed. S. Hughes & Co.
Abilene, Tex.

WE NOTICE that some of our exchanges approve our suggestions in regard to making a war of extermination on the prairie dogs. It would be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to the farming and stockraising interests of Western Texas to be rid of this pest. And the papers of this section could do their constituency no greater service than to agitate the question of its extermination until the people are brought to take hold of it in a way that will lead to that end.

IN VIEW of the statements contained in a New York special of the 7th inst., reproduced in the Free Press this week, in regard to the intentions of the Rock Island railway company, it would not be amiss for our railroad committee to correspond with the proper officials of the road. It appears to us that that line could have no more profitable feeder than a line running to the southwest from some point in the Indian territory, or south of Red river, to gather up and carry to the great live stock shipping business of Western Texas and in turn distribute through this section the products and goods of the north.

While the company is doubtless pretty well advised in a general way of the productions and volume of business to be acquired by an extension into this territory, a correspondence with them and the furnishing of detailed information in regard to our immediate section, if desired by them, might lead to our future advantage.

A BUSINESS meeting of the Fort Worth Live Stock exchange on Monday was attended by a good many prominent stockmen from over the state, and the News' correspondent made use of the occasion to acquire the information as to prices contained in the following clipping, which we suppose will be of interest to our cattle men:

"Diligent inquiry among cattle men now in Fort Worth from different parts of the state indicate that the prices ruling for cattle of all sorts for spring delivery are as follows:

Southern Texas—Cows \$14 to \$16, steers, ones, \$12 to \$14, twos \$15 to \$20, threes \$17 to \$24, fours \$19 to \$27; stock cattle, no calves of '98 to count, \$11 to \$14.

Central Texas—About \$1 per head more is demanded than prices asked in southern Texas.

Western Texas—Cows \$17 to \$20, steers, ones \$15 to \$17, twos \$20 to \$23, threes \$25 to \$28.

Panhandle and plains—Cows \$18 to \$22, steers, ones \$16 to \$21, twos \$24 to 27, threes \$30 to \$32.

Buyers are numerous, scouring the country for calves for immediate delivery, and a summary of prices offered for this class of stock is as follows:

South Texas \$8 to \$10, central Texas \$9 to \$11, west Texas \$10 to \$12 and panhandle and plains \$12 to \$15.

J. W. Moseley of Lampasas is in the city and reports a large number of contracts made thus far this fall in his section for yearlings and 2-year-olds for spring delivery at \$15 to \$20. He states that there is no lack of buyers, coming chiefly from west Texas and Kansas.

For a year or more there has been quite a noticeable immigration movement from the middle west and northwest to Louisiana and portions of Texas, mostly to the southern portion of the state, which has been largely advertised. These immigrants are a thrifty, energetic and generally fairly well-to-do set of people whose main desire in escaping their place of residence is to escape the rigors of the northwestern climate. From what we have read of them from time to time it would seem that they are a desirable class of people for any country to secure, and it has seemed to the Free Press for a long time that this section might profit largely by some judicious immigration work in the section from which they are coming. That so far none of them have come to western Texas may readily be accounted for by the fact that no county of this section has made any effort to place its advantages before them or to correct the erroneous ideas and impressions which have been propagated in regard to it for two generations—ignorantly at first by geographers putting it on their maps as the great American desert and, later, by persons having a selfish interest in preventing its settlement. That this misrepresentation has abated to a large extent does not of itself cure the wrong that has been done; it will require energetic and steady effort to bring the country before the world in its true light within the lifetime of the people now interested in its full development. Unless the people awaken their energies and go to work on this line looking for profit from their investments will be a case of hope deferred, and waiting for its business and industrial development will be a wearing and weary task.

But the advantages of the country in comparison to many others are such that we believe very gratifying results could be brought about by properly directed effort and at a cost not too great to undertake. If called upon we believe that we could suggest a feasible and profitable plan of work to a meeting of interested citizens.

Wall Paper and Paint

We have sold Wall paper for twenty years. This year we have the prettiest patterns and lowest prices. Our Paint (Masurys) will stand longer than any brand of mixed paint ever used in this country, and twice as long as white lead.

BASS BROS. - - Abilene, Tex.

P. S. We are headquarters for new and 2nd hand School Books, with covers. One of the firm spent a month in buying our HOLIDAY goods. SPECIAL PRICES TO DEALERS.

HO-HO-HO!!

Now Comes

The largest stock of Dry Goods and Groceries ever offered to the people of Haskell county at one time in the history of this country, consisting of everything to eat and to wear.

The above stock of goods is

not to be found on sale now, but have been on sale—some this year some last year and you know how long before that—and this means that we need and want the pay for your share of them. You know how lenient we have been with you.

Last year was a hard year

and you did not make enough to pay your accounts (many of you) and we did not worry you with a continual stream of duns, but just bore the load ourselves and have carried you another year and, as fortune has smiled on us and our lands have brought forth a good harvest we now ask you to lift the burden from our shoulders by settling your accounts promptly by Dec. 1st to 15th, that we may in turn make ourselves at ease.

Now Don't Say, Alex., carry me another

year, for we bore a heavy load under your failures last year and took all the risk for this year, and there may be another year like last year and then will be time to sing the old song and have it heard.

Now Come, Friends and Customers

and lets settle up and make a new start. Don't force us to call on you in person, for be sure we will see you after the given date if you don't see us before.

Yours in the true bonds of friendship,

F. G. ALEXANDER & CO.

Per Alex.

TOYS

—AND—

FANCY GOODS
In Great Variety.

I feel justified in saying to the public that never before in the history of the town was there so large, so varied and so choice a selection of toys and holiday goods shown in Haskell as is now displayed at my store.

I have something to please the fancy and suit the purse of every one.

Toys of every kind and description from 5 cents up.

Dolls of all sorts and sizes at any price you want.

Games of various kinds.

And among the fancy goods such articles as,

- Toilet Mirrors,
- Dressing Cases,
- Parlor Lamps,
- Handsome Vases,
- Fine Medallions,
- Plush Albumns,
- Writing Desks,
- Paper Weights,
- Ink Stands, etc.

and a choice line of Perfumeries and toilet articles.

These goods are for sale, and the prices will be such as to convince you of the fact and of the further fact that it won't pay you to go elsewhere to buy.

Come and see and you will be convinced.

A. P. MCLEMORE.

M. S. PIERSON, President. A. C. FOSTER, Vice-President. J. L. JONES, Cash. LEE PIERSON, Asst. Cash.

THE HASKELL NATIONAL BANK,
HASKELL, TEXAS.

A General Banking Business Transacted. Collections made and Promptly Remitted. Exchange Drawn on all principal Cities of the United States.

DIRECTORS:—M. S. Pierson, A. C. Foster, J. L. Jones, Lee Pierson, T. J. Lemmon.

J. W. BELL,



Manufacturer & Dealer In **SADDLES and HARNESS.**

Full Stock, Work Promptly to Order.

Repairing done neatly and substantially. Prices reasonable and satisfaction with goods and work guaranteed.

Your Trade is Solicited.



IT IS TIME To Think of **BUYING A STOVE.**

We have just received a **Car Load.**

POPULAR **BRIDGE BEACH & CO'S** COOKING

—AND— **HEATING STOVES.**

These stoves are first class in every particular and will be sold at prices that will beat going to the railroad for them.

Call and see them. **McCullum & Wilbourn Co.**

FURNITURE

Largest Stock West of Fort Worth!

Two Car Loads Just In From Factory.

PICTURE MOULDING, WALL PAPER, WINDOW SHADES.

COFFINS AND ALL UNDERTAKER'S GOODS.

EMBALMING A SPECIALTY.

I always keep my stock full, and I won't be undersold. Call on me.

T.H.C. PEERY, SEYMOUR.

REEDY'S RESTAURANT.

MEALS at all HOURS.

FRDSH OYSTERS SERVED TO ORDER

Also keeps fresh Fruits, Nuts, Candies, Cider, Cigars and Tobacco.

A SHARE OF YOUR PATRONAGE SOLICITED. NEXT DOOR TO BELL'S SADDLE SHOP.

W. M. REEDY.

Unparalleled Perfect Grand... **SUCCESS**

Were the expressions heard on all sides about the

Blue Ribbon Winner

In the Plow Contest at the Abilene Round-Up and Fair.

TONGUELESS, but yet it talks in the field and the best is the cheapest at a higher price, but

Success Sulky's are the Best

AND as cheap as the **CHEAPEST**

What more could you ask? Nothing succeeds like Success Sulky Plows. If interested confer with

ED S. HUGHES & CO.
Abilene, Texas.

Notice of Stockholders' Meeting.

Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Haskell National Bank will be held on Tuesday January 11th, 1898, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 4 p. m., at the office of said bank in the town of Haskell, Texas, for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the ensuing year and for transacting such other business as may properly come before such meeting. J. L. JONES, Cashier. Haskell, Tex. Dec. 7, 1897.

Young People

FREE: \$20.00 IN GOLD, Bicycle, Gold Watch, Diamond Ring, or a Scholarship in any college or university. Every Young Man or Woman who subscribes to the Young People's Advocate, an illustrated semi-monthly journal, it is elevating in character, moral in tone, and especially interesting and profitable to young people, but read with interest and profit by people of all ages. Stories and other reading matter well illustrated. Sample copies sent free. Agents wanted. Address: Young People's Advocate Pub. Co., Nashville, Tenn. [Mention this paper.]

Disease of the Blood and Nerves. No one need suffer with neuralgia. This disease is quickly and permanently cured by Brown's Iron Bitters. Every disease of the blood, nerves and stomach, chronic or otherwise, succumbs to Brown's Iron Bitters. Known and used for nearly a quarter of a century, it stands to-day foremost among our most reliable remedies. For sale by All Dealers.

FOR ALL WOMEN

Non-removal of all the pain and sickness from which women suffer is caused by weakness or derangement in the organs of menstruation. Nearly always when a woman is not well these organs are affected. But when they are strong and healthy a woman is very seldom sick.

MELREE'S Wine of Cardui

Is nature's provision for the regulation of the menstrual function. It cures all "female troubles." It is equally effective for the girl in her teens, the young wife with domestic and maternal cares, and the woman approaching the period known as the "Change of Life." They all need it. They are all benefited by it.

For advice in cases requiring special directions, address, giving symptoms, the Ladies' Advisory Department, The Chattanooga Medicine Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

IMAGES' SERMON.

SANCTIFIED MUSCLE. LAST SUNDAY'S SUBJECT.

Takes the Exciting Story of Samson as a Suggestion—"And Samson Went Down to Timnath"—Judges Chapter XIII, Verse 1.

HERE are two sides to the character of Samson. The one phase of his life, if followed into the particulars, would administer to the grotesque and the morbid; but there is a phase of his character fraught with lessons of courage and eternal import. To these graver lessons we devote our sermon. This giant no doubt in early life gave evidences of what he was to be. It is almost always so. There were two Napoleons—the boy Napoleon and the man Napoleon—but both alike; two Howards—the boy Howard and the man Howard—but both alike; two Samsons—the boy Samson and the man Samson—but both alike. This giant was no doubt the hero of the playground, and nothing could stand before his exhibitions of youthful prowess. At eighteen years of age he was betrothed to the daughter of a Philistine. Going down toward Timnath, a lion came upon him, and although this young giant was weaponless, he seized the monster by the long mane and shook him as a hungry lion shakes a March hare, and made his bones crack, and left him by the wayside bleeding under the smiting of his fist and a grinding heft of his heel.

There he stands, looming up above other men, a mountain of flesh, his arms bunched with muscle that can lift the gate of a city, taking an attitude defiant of everything. His hair has never been cut, and it rolled down in seven great plaits over his shoulders, adding to his bulk, fierceness and terror. The Philistines want to conquer him, and therefore they must find out where the secret of his strength lies.

There is a disolute woman living in the valley of Sorek by the name of Delilah. They appoint her the agent in the case. The Philistines are secreted in the same building, and then Delilah goes to work and coaxes Samson to tell what is the secret of his strength. "Well," he says, "if you should take seven green withes, such as they fascinate wild beasts with, and as they fascinate wild beasts would be perfectly powerless," she binds him with the seven green withes. Then she claps her hands and says: "They come—the Philistines!" and he walks away as though they were no impediment. She coaxes him again, and says: "Now, tell me the secret of this great strength," and he replies: "If you should take eight ropes that I never been used and tie me with them I should be just like other men." She ties him with the ropes, claps her hands and shouts: "They come—the Philistines!" He walks out as easily as before—not a single obstacle coaxes him again, and he goes on his way, and by this time we are them into a web, and he is fast away. So the shuttle flies and forward and the long locks of hair are woven into a web, and she claps her hands, and says: "They come—the Philistines!" He walks out as easily as he did before, dragging a part of the loom with him. But after a while she persuaded him to tell the truth. He says: "If you should take a razor or shears and cut off this long hair, I should be powerless, and in the hands of my enemies." Samson sleeps, and that she may not wake him up during the process of shearing, help is called in. You know that the barbers of the East have such a skillful way of manipulating the head to this very day that instead of waking up a sleeping man, they will put a man wide awake sound asleep. I hear the blades of the shears grinding against each other, and I see the long locks falling off. The shears or razor accomplishes what green withes and new ropes and house-loom could not do. Suddenly she claps her hands, and says: "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson." He rises up with a struggle, but his strength is all gone. He is in the hands of his enemies.

I hear the groan of the giant as they take his eyes out, and then I see him staggering on in his blindness, feeling his way as he goes on toward Gaza. The prison door is open, and the giant is thrust in. He sits down and puts his hand on the mill-crank, which with exhausting horizontal motion, goes day after day, week after week, month after month—work, work, work! The consternation of the world in captivity, his locks shorn, his eyes punctured, grinding corn in Gaza!

First of all, behold in this giant of the text that physical power is not always an index of moral power. He was a huge man—the lion found it out, and the three thousand men whom he slew found it out; yet he was the subject of petty revenges and out-gianted by low passion. I am far from throwing any discredit upon physical strength. There are those who seem to have great admiration for delicacy and softness of constitution. I never could see any glory in weak nerves and sick headache. Whatever effort in a day is made to make the men and women more robust should have the approval of every good citizen as well as every Christian. Gymnastics may be positively religious.

Good people sometimes ascribe to a sickly heart that they ought to ascribe to a slow liver. The body and the soul are such near neighbors that they often catch each other's disease. Those who never saw a sick day, and who, like Hercules, show the giant in the cradle, have more to answer for than those who are the subjects of life-long infirmities. He who can lift twice as much as you can, and walk twice as far, and work twice as long, will have a double account to meet in the judgment.

How often is it that you do not find physical energy indicative of spiritual power? If a clear head is worth more than one dizzy with perpetual vertigo

in muscles which play of health in them are worth more than those drawn up in chronic "rheumatism"—if an eye quick to catch passing objects is better than one with vision dim and uncertain—then God will require of us efficiency just in proportion to what he has given us. Physical energy ought to be a type of moral power. We ought to have as good digestion of truth as we have capacity to assimilate food. Our spiritual hearing ought to be as good as our physical hearing. Our spiritual taste ought to be as clear as our tongue. Samsons in body, we ought to be giants in moral power.

But while you find a great many men who realize that they ought to use their money aright, and use their intelligence aright, how few men you find aware of the fact that they ought to use their physical organism aright! With every thump of the heart there is something saying, "Work! work!" and something complaining that we have no tools to work with. God gives us our hands and feet with every nerve, and with every joint, and with every muscle, saying to us, "Lay hold and do something!"

But how often it is that men with physical strength do not serve Christ! They are like a ship full manned and full rigged, capable of vast tonnage, able to endure all stress of weather, yet swinging idly at the docks, when these men ought to be crossing and recrossing the great ocean of human suffering and sin with the supplies of mercy. How often it is that physical strength is used in doing positive damage, or in luxurious ease, when, with sleeves rolled up and bronzed bosom, fearless of the shafts of opposition, it ought to be laying hold with all its might, and tugging away to lift up this sunken wreck of a world.

It is a most shameless fact that much of the business of the church and of the world must be done by those comparatively invalid. Richard Baxter, by reason of his diseases, all his days sitting in the door of the tomb, yet writing more than a hundred volumes, and sending over as influential as for God that will endure as long as the "Saints' Everlasting Rest." Edward Payson, never knowing a well day, yet how he preached, and how he wrote, helping thousands of dying souls like himself to "swim in a sea of glory!" And Robert McChesney, a walking skeleton, yet you know what he did in Dundee, and how he shook Scotland with zeal for God. Philip Doddridge, advised by his friends, because of his illness, not to enter the ministry, yet you know what he did for the "rise and progress of religion" in the church and in the world.

The trouble is that when people write or speak upon this theme they are apt to cover it up with the graces of belles lettres, so that the crime is made attractive instead of repulsive. Lord Byron in "Don Juan" adorns this theme until it smiles like a May queen. Michelet, the great French writer, covers it up with bewitching rhetoric, until it glows like the rising sun, when it ought to be made loathsome as a smallpox hospital. There are today influences abroad, which, if unresisted by the pulpit and the printing press, will turn our modern cities into Sodoms and Gomorrah, fit only for the storm of fire and brimstone that will whelm the cities of the plain. You who are seated in your Christian homes, compassed by moral and religious restraints, do not realize the guilt of iniquity that bounds you on the north and the south and the east and west. While I speak there are tens of thousands of men and women going over the awful plunge of an impure life; and while I cry to God for mercy upon their souls I call upon you to marshal in the defense of your homes, your church and your nation. There is a banqueting hall that you have never heard described. You know all about the feast of Ahasuerus, where a thousand lords sat. You know all about Belshazzar's banquet, where the blood of the murdered king spurted into the faces of the banqueters. You may know of the scene of riot and wastal, when there was set before Esopus one dish of food that cost \$400,000. But I speak now of a different banqueting hall. Its roof is fretted with fire. Its floor is tessellated with fire. Its chalice are chased with fire. Its song is a song of fire. Its walls are buttresses of fire. Solomon refers to it when he says: "Her guests are in the depths of hell."

Behold also in this giant of the text and in the giant of our own century that great physical power must crumble and expire. The Samson of the text long ago went away. He fought the lion. He fought the Philistines. He could fight anything, but death was too much for him. He may have required a longer grave and a broader grave, but the tomb nevertheless was his terminus.

If, then, we are to be compelled to go out of this world, where are we to go? This body and soul must soon part. What shall be the destiny of the former I know—dust to dust. But what shall be the destiny of the latter? Shall it rise into the companionship of the white-robed, whose sins Christ has slain? or will it go down among the unbelieving, who tried to gain the world and save their souls, but were swindled out of both? Blessed be God, we have a champion! He is so styled in the Bible. A Champion who has conquered death and hell, and is ready to fight all our battles from the first to the last. "Who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed garments from Borrah, mighty to save?" If we follow in the wake of that Champion death has no power and the grave no victory. The worst man trusting in him shall have his dying pangs alleviated and his future illumined.

In the light of this subject I want to call your attention to a fact which may not have been rightly considered by five men in all the world, and that is the fact that we must be brought into judgment for the employment of our physical organism. Shoulder, brain, hand, foot—we must answer in judgment for the use we have made of them. Have they been used for the elevation of society or for its depression? In proportion as our arm is strong and our step elastic will our account at last be intensified. Thousands of sermons are preached to invalids. I preach this morning to stout men and healthy women. We must give God an account for the right use of this physical organism.

as she stands before the throne of God to answer she says, "I was so all my days. I had but very little strength, but I did as well as I could." Being kind to those who were more or less and more suffering." And Christ will say, "Well done, faithful servant."

And then a little child will stand before the throne, and she will say, "Oh, earth, I had a curvature of the spine, and I was very weak, and I was very sick; but I used to gather flowers out of the wildwood and bring them to my sick mother, and she was comforted when she saw the sweet flowers out of the wildwood. I didn't do much, but I did something." And Christ shall say, as he takes her up in his arms and kisses her, "Well done, well done, faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." What, then, will be said to us—to whom the Lord gave physical strength and continuous health?

I said to an old Scotch minister, who was one of the best friends I ever had, "Doctor, did you ever know Robert Pollock, the Scotch poet, who wrote 'The Course of Time'?" "Oh, yes," he replied, "I knew him well; I was his classmate." And then the doctor went on to tell me how that the writing of "The Course of Time" exhausted the health of Robert Pollock, and he expired. It seems as if no man could have such a glimpse of the day for which other days were made as Robert Pollock had, and long survive that glimpse. In the description of that day he says, among other things:

Begin the woe, ye woods, and tell it to the doleful winds,
And doleful winds wail to the howling hills,
And howling hills mourn to the dismal vales,
And dismal vales sigh to the sorrowing brooks,
And sorrowing brooks weep to the weeping stream,
And weeping stream awake the groaning deep;

Ye heavens, great archway of the universe, put sackcloth on;
And ocean, robe thyself in garb of widowhood,
And gather all thy waves into a groan, and utter it.
Long, loud, deep, piercing, dolorous, immense.
The occasion asks it, Nature dies, and angels come to lay her in her grave.

What Robert Pollock saw in prophetic dream, you and I will see in positive reality—the judgment! the judgment!

A Royal Railway Car.
The royal Danish railway car, by which the Princess of Wales and her daughter traveled through Danish territory recently, is of great historical interest, and unique in its way. It having carried in its time half the royalty of Europe. The car is of the Pullman type, but the hangings and upholstery are more showy. However, its most interesting feature is the "historical" window, on which nearly every royal traveler has scratched his or her name or nickname with a diamond. It is nearly covered with these signatures, but mostly with the pet or nickname of the exalted writers. Thus we find "Bertie" and "Alice," indicating the Prince and Princess of Wales; "Nicky," the present young emperor of all the Russias; while "Sachen, 1883," stands for his father, and simple "Eddy, 1887," for the late Duke of Clarence, and "George" for the Duke of York, with above it "Toria," for the Duchess. Again, we encounter "Alex-Ogla, 1885," meaning Princess Louise and Victoria of Wales, such being their family pet names, strange as they may sound, while another "Nicky" the Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, uncle of the Czar, and another "Alice," the present Carina; and "Muriel" shows the pet name of Princess Marie of Saxo-Coburg and Gotha, the Crown Princess of Roumania. Of the more sober and distinctive names may be mentioned "Wilhelm," the German Emperor who dislikes nicknames; "Christian," the King of Denmark; "Dagmar," the Dowager Empress; "Victoria" of Hesse; "Louise," eldest daughter of the Crown Prince of Denmark, etc. Naturally the signatures have a somewhat "shaky" appearance, though the conditions of traveling under which they have been scratched.—Buffalo Commercial.

Degenerate Families.
There is a paper on "The Causes of Poverty," by the late Francis A. Walker in the December Century. Gen. Walker says: The true predominant causes of pauperism, as of crime, have been strikingly painfully brought out in tracing the history of a few families. Three cases will suffice. The reader remembers the investigation of the Jukes family in New York state. Mr. Dugdale estimated that the members of this family, descendants of one worthless woman or intermarriage with her descendants, have in seventy-five years cost the state, as criminals and paupers, a million and a quarter of dollars. The history of a Kentucky family founded in 1780 has been traced to include the character and conduct of a host of its members by descent or by sexual alliance, legitimate or illegitimate. Among these have been 121 prostitutes. Thieving and beggary have made up the lives of most of the remainder. Those who try to do something better for the selves prove unable to perform hard labor or to endure severe weather. They break down early and go easily to the poor house or hospital. From Berlin we have the history of another criminal and pauper family, the descendants of two sisters who lived in the last century. The enumerated "degeneracy" number 834. Of these the history of 799 has been traced with tolerable accuracy. They embrace 106 illegitimate children, 164 prostitutes, 17 pimps, 142 beggars, 64 inmates of poorhouses and 76 who have been guilty of serious crimes. Still other instructive cases are given. In one of which nearly all the inmates of a county poorhouse have been found to be related in blood.

Too Smart for Him.
"Yes," said young Softleigh, "I like to see a smart, well-educated woman, but I wouldn't marry one who knew more than I did." "I'm very sorry," replied Miss Cutting, "to hear that you have resolved to remain a bachelor all your life."

DAIRY AND POULTRY.

INTERESTING CHAPTERS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

How Successful Farmers Operate This Department of the Farm A Few Hints as to the Care of Live Stock and Poultry.

Dairying on Valuable Land.
WILL you be kind enough to state to your next issue, the dairy farmer in western New York, on fair land costing \$65 per acre, to produce and sell milk on farm to milk peddler for 10 cents per gallon.

Also please state which are the best cows for milk production, and how much good ones will cost per head. Also please state how many gallons a day a good cow will give during the year, if properly fed and cared for.

From western New York to northern Iowa is a far cry, and the proponent of the above questions is located at the third point of this hypothetical geographical triangle which his queries has outlined to the writer's memory. Yet in this matter of dairying in Iowa alone. Now, as to whether it will pay for the New York farmer to produce milk and sell it at ten cents per gallon will depend more upon the farmer and his methods than on the money value of the land where his operations are conducted. He has the land, and it must be utilized, and if he cultivates it in a business-like manner it may be assumed that milk can be produced and sold at ten cents per gallon. In order to do this there must be strict economy, and close watchfulness over all the details connected with the work. The food required should be grown, so far as possible, on the farm. Intensive, and not extensive, farming, as we see followed in many places, must be followed. In the past, when Iowa lands had a value of, say, twenty dollars per acre, it was good policy to make land take the place of labor—gathering crops from extended areas which by more careful cultivation could be secured from much less land. But with land values at about fifty dollars per acre, as it now is, a different system ought to prevail. Yet in this matter of dairying the old-fashioned system has not kept pace with the increase in price of land. And in making his first trip eastward a few years ago the writer was astonished to see that in western New York it was not uncommon to see the manure from cow stables thrown out of windows and left exposed to sun, wind and rain. The low-priced surplus corn, oats, mill by-products, etc., go eastward to feed live stock in those regions, and unless the manure is saved and applied to the land, not only will the principal profit expected from its purchase be lost, but the land from which the main supply of food is taken for use of such animals will be steadily impoverished and depleted. And this is as true of the rich lands of the Mississippi valley as of Genesee or Mohawk valleys of New York state. An acre of good land, either in New York, Iowa, or Missouri, planted to corn, in such a manner as to get the maximum produce all the food of this class as an average cow requires in a year's time. And in New York peas can be successfully raised to supply the nitrogenous food needed to balance corn as a ration for cows giving milk. The best cows for milk production are such as will give the largest yield of standard milk or milk of richness required by law. And cows of this class are found in nearly all breeds. They are also found in astonishing numbers in that much despised race characterized as common, or scrubs. From the milk sellers' standpoint choice may be made among cows having Shorthorn, Holstein, or Red Poll blood in their makeup. A cow that will give 5,000 pounds of milk during the year may be called a good cow. Yet there are those that yield considerably more than this quantity, and should be prized accordingly.

Raising Ducks Artificially.
Of course in raising 10,000 to 15,000 ducks it is important that one should have the most suitable stock, writes Samuel Cushman in Northwestern Agriculturist. A cut of one or two cents per pound from the highest market rates will make a great difference in the receipts. The quality must be the best. The quicker they grow the shorter the time they must be kept. The earlier they are put on the market the higher the price they bring. There is more profit in one early bird sold at 35 cents per pound than in several late ones at 13 to 16 cents. Pure white feathers bring the most. James Rankin has had a brood of ducks and finds all have their outs. Aylesbury ducks have white feathers, but they and their crosses are longer in maturing and harder to pick. Pekins, he found, matured earlier by ten days or fortnight. Rouens are not only longer in maturing, but are tender and delicate. Cayugas are fine, plump birds and lay as well, eggs hatch as well, and ducklings mature as early as the Pekins, but they are smaller, have black plumage, and the dark pin feathers hurt in their appearance. Crosses between the two were fine and plump, took on fat as readily and matured as early as the Pekins, but they came mottled in plumage, had dark skin in patches and dark pin feathers, so brought less. Their feathers also sell for much less. A cross between Cayugas and Rouens gave all the good qualities of the former and are larger than the latter and make a better table bird, but do not equal Pekins. Evidently the right breed to cross with Pekins does not exist, or has not been found; that is, with the present requirements of the market.

Cattle in Mexico.
The French minister of agriculture has lately published in the Journal Officiel a short report on cattle breeding in Mexico, an industry which is still in its early days, but promises to give magnificent results, says Mark Lane Express. Unfortunately the water supply is deficient, and land which

otherwise would be splendid for out-feeding, cannot be used. In spite of the heavy rains which fall during May, thousands of cattle die of thirst every year. In order to make these lands suitable for breeding cattle, it will be necessary to construct reservoirs, which will serve to provide water for the animals, and also to irrigate the land. This work the breeders desire to carry out with the assistance of the government, and when it is realized this industry will be of great value. Up to the present, however, the loss of cattle every year from want of water causes all benefits to disappear. In these lands, which are so well adapted for breeding purposes, two varieties of fodder grow plentifully, namely, "privet" and "zacate de Parra"; both are excellent and abundant. The native race of cattle are worth at three years old from \$3 to \$4 (nominal), and after being put on better feed for eight to eleven months, they are ready for the butcher, weighing from 300 to 350 pounds. The breeders of Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, and Colahuahua carry on an active trade with the United States, where the cattle are fattened for the markets of St. Louis and Chicago. It was thought at one time that it would be a remunerative speculation to export the cattle to Europe, either alive or in the frozen meat ships, but the first trials were unsuccessful, as the Mexican cattle are too small in size, and their meat is not good enough for the European consumer. As regards dairy production, the Mexican cattle are not of great value, as they only give a maximum of five quarts per day. Breeders and others to whom the sale of milk is an important source of revenue, and whose farms are close to towns, have introduced Dutch cattle to improve the milking properties of the Mexican breed. A large number of the coffee and sugar cane planters are now also cattle breeding, and from inquiries made it has been ascertained that there are large tracts of land which are not suitable for coffee or sugar cane planting, but which are excellent pasture lands. As the banana flourish, the dairy cows are fed upon green banana leaves. The leaves of the sugar cane are also very tasty for cattle. Combined with the growth of coffee and sugar, cattle raising, it is considered, ought in the near future to make a considerable increase in the value and revenue of the farms. It is regarded as one of the elements of the future agricultural prosperity of Mexico.

Controlling the Sex.
Many theories have been advocated as to how male or female offspring may be produced; and yet, after all, there is no theory in the matter, but a very simple law of nature, says a writer in Dakota Farmer. Give a bull and cow of like ages and strength and constitution, and the produce of these may be of either sex. But let the bull be old or weak or out of condition, and the calf will, almost without exception, be male, and this is merely the law of nature trying to reproduce itself, because of the two animals, the bull shows evidence of being the one most likely to die first, and, therefore, the male calf would be the one required to carry on the breed. In short, the offspring produced is of the same sex, as a rule, as the weaker of the two parents. This, I know, is quite contrary to the most general theory; but I have taken the trouble to study and prove it during the past six and thirty years, and I have found that it is invariably the case, not only as regards cattle, but also in the case of sheep, horses, and even human beings. When our colonies were first settled and quantity rather than stock was the one thing desired, young rams were put to old, broken mouth ewes, with the result that ewe lambs were produced in numbers as eighty is to twenty. But when the old and heavily fleeced wethers were wanted, old rams were put to two-year-old ewes, and the result was that about three parts of the lambs were rams. I know that what I have written will be contradicted by many, but I have proved it correct during thirty-six years of a farming life at home and abroad.

Feeding for Eggs.
It is difficult to give a general formula that will suit all conditions, still we believe in the morning mash winter and summer, says Country Gentleman. It is composed of one-half ground corn and oats, one-fourth bran, and one-fourth boiled vegetables or soaked beef scraps, or cut clover hay steamed; mixed with boiling water at night, covered up and left to steam, and fed warm in winter. In summer, cold water is better. Whether to feed this mash every day or every other day (alternating with wheat, or wheat and cracked corn mixed in winter) can be decided by experiment. Meat in some form, either raw or cooked, should be fed two or three times a week, and green food every day, winter and summer. If fowls are confined in yards, Green cut bone is an excellent feed either separately or mixed with the mash. Our manner of feeding for eggs is to give the mash every other morning in summer and every morning in late fall and winter. Care should be taken, however, not to give a full meal, but sufficient to satisfy hunger, and thus compel the hens to hunt around for whatever they may find in the yards or litter of the crops. We feed nothing at midday but green food, such as cabbage, and at night, wheat, oats and cracked corn, separately or mixed together. The heavy breeds being generally less active than the light, need to be carefully fed and kept busy scratching. Avoid over-feeding if you wish an abundance of eggs.

Eggs Per Year.
We hear a great many stories about the hens that laid 200 eggs each per year. We would like to see a large flock of say a hundred hens that would lay even 125 eggs per year each. We know people that have kept a steady account for years of their fowls, and were never able to get much above the 100-egg mark. In fact, if one could be assured that his hens would lay 100 eggs each in a year he would have a safe business in which to invest. We are speaking of the common run of farm flocks. The flocks in mind were composed of Plymouth Rocks and Brown Leghorns, most of them of doubtful age.

Filed cheese from American factories drove out of the English market honest cheese from American factories.

IN THE ODD CORNER.

QUEER AND CURIOUS THINGS AND EVENTS.

Nature a Clever Sculptor—Stone Found in Oregon Which Bore a Beautiful Face of Jewish Cast—Klondyke's First Restaurant.

Song of An Indian Mother.
KEEP, child of my love! be thy number as light as the redoubt that nestles upon a rock on the spray.
Be the visions that visit thee fairy and bright
As the dewdrops that a parklet's ground with the round with the ray!

Oh, soft, float the breath from thine innocent breast!
In the wild wood sleep studies, in roses, thy head.
But her who protects thee, a wanderer unblest,
He forsakes, or surrounds with his phantoms of dread.

I fear for thy father why stays he so long
On the shores where the wife of the fisher is thrown,
And the sailor cut tinged to hearken her song,
So sad o'er the wave, ere she hardened to stone?

He skims the blue tide in his broken canoe,
Where the foam in the moonbeams his path may describe,
The ball to its scope may speed rapid and true,
And lost in the wave be thy father's death cry.

Nature a Clever Sculptor.
From the Boston Transcript: A perfect face of a delicate Jewish cast was discovered in a small stone about as large as a 10-cent piece, found lying on the railroad grade near Junction City, Ore. Not only are the brow, hair, beard and beautiful aquiline nose perfectly shaped and distinct on the stone, but the neck and shoulders are vignettes off into the delicate granite tracery of the background, as it would have been done by an artist. Not only is the face as delicately beautiful in line as one stamped upon a Greek coin of the reign of Alexander, but in this stone are reproduced the colors of life. The face is white, with a blending of flesh tones, growing deeper in the shadows of the neck and shoulders. The hair in the dark shadow at the back is a rich auburn, just the color associated most often with the asseetic Jewish type, to which the whole face belongs. It is, perhaps, the strangest part of this extraordinary coincidence of forms that each feature, from the cavernous eye and delicate hollowed cheek, to the high, narrow brow and wavy auburn hair, is in accord with a familiar type of the Christ. In this respect the Oregon stone is infinitely superior as a work of nature's art to the "Stone Man of Sorrows." This head, in a stone a little larger than the recent discovery, was picked up at Oberammergau as a mere casual memento of the spot, because of association with the passion play, and eight years afterward, being held in a certain position, was seen to reveal the face that was somewhat sentimentally supposed to resemble the face of Christ.

Potatoes in Early Times.
From Lippincott's: Potatoes, native to Peru, were discovered by the Spaniards in the neighborhood of Quito, where they were cultivated by the natives. Condor, a monk, first introduced them into Spain, whence they passed into Italy and thence to Belgium. Humboldt says that at the discovery they were cultivated in all the temperate parts of the continent, from Chill to New Granada, but not in Mexico. In 1582 potatoes were taken from North Carolina and Virginia, on the return of the colonists sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh, and were first cultivated on his estate near Cork. The sweet potatoes, native of the West Indies, were given to Columbus by the natives of Cuba. They were introduced into England by Sir Francis Drake, who wrote of them in praise, but forgot to send instructions to eat only the root. The gardener of Queen Elizabeth planted them and ate some of the tops. Being disgusted by the taste, he pulled up his crop, made a fire of the pile, was attracted by the pleasant odor of the burning tubers, picked up a root, ate it, and, being pleased with the taste, continued the cultivation and introduced them to the notice of others.

Latest in Eye Glasses.
Not man alone has artificial eyes these days. It is the fashion now to supply glass eyes to pet cats and dogs. In the east the demand for artificial eyes for dogs is brisk. It is largely due to the fashion of making pets of bulldogs and bull terriers, which are now so popular. At Newport, the other day, Dr. Rush J. Heidecker put a new eye in Mrs. Frederic Neilson's pet brindle bull terrier. The dog had his eye dislocated in a fight some months ago, and as a result he lost the sight of it. The animal seemed to realize what was being done for him when the doctor performed the operation, and never bled. Artificial eyes for dogs have to be made to order, but any optician will procure them in a week's time. Of course, they must fit the socket with perfect accuracy, so as not to cause any irritation, and the dogs for whom they are manufactured are of so many sizes and shapes that each eye is quite different. As all have to be made to order, they are expensive, costing from \$10 to \$15. A dog's eye is usually much larger than a human being's, but it is not to be compared in point of size with the horse's. A glass eye for a horse is a very big thing indeed. It is as large as a small tea saucer. Many valuable horses are supplied with glass eyes, for of all animals they seem most prone to eye injuries. All the artificial eyes for animals used in this country are of native manufacture. There is a big factory in New York de-

scribed solely to the manufacture of artificial eyes, and here most of those used for dogs and horses are made. Usually several eyes are ordered at once, as in the case of a person, because artificial eyes do not last very long, a new one being necessary about once in six months. This seems a bit strange at first glance, but it really is not, for the acid of the secretions affect the enamel and cause a roughening of the edges, which brings on irritation. Thus the demand for eyes is constant. A sample of the sort of eye required by each horse or dog is set in the factory, so that at no time is there any trouble in obtaining duplicates.

Story of Two Brothers.
Two brothers named Wilcox were graduated at Ann Arbor, just after that event they went hunting in northern Michigan. One day William left their camp and did not return. The woods were searched, streams dragged and lakes sounded, but no trace of the missing man was found. Weeks, months and years went by and nothing appeared to prove that William Wilcox was yet among the living. The brother began his career as a teacher, and advanced rapidly in his profession, with only one sorrow, that of a lost brother, intensified in time by the death of their parents. The latter left considerable estate, but as the death of William could not be proved its settlement was delayed.

A camper in northern Wisconsin recently returned with some photographs. One was of a hermit seen there. A woman who saw it recognized it as that of William Wilcox. The camper said of the hermit: "He was a fine conversationalist, and through his ways and all the utter debasement of a tramp we could detect the gentleman and man of learning. Of himself he would not speak a word, except that his name was Wilcox and that his manner of living was his own choosing. He brought us berries and fish, saying that he cared nothing for money beyond enough to carry him through the winter, and for that purpose \$10 was all he wanted. His hut was seven or ten miles north of our camp and it was twice a week sometimes he would come tramping down the railroad track with berries. The pleasure of him was taken by two young men, who were of our party. The woman who recognized the picture sent it to a brother of Wilcox in New York, who then sent a letter addressed to the hermit at the postoffice nearest to his supposed locality in the Wisconsin forest. It was a letter full of pleading to return home, and telling him of the death of the father and mother. He was urged to come, as his presence in the Michigan town where the Wilcoxes lived was necessary in settling the estate. After many weeks the missing man got the letter and answered it; said he would go to Ann Arbor, but that nothing could keep him in civilization again. He wanted no part of the estate, not so much as would pay his railroad fare. He would not go home, but preferred to tramp it through the woods, across the straits of Mackinac, down to where they desired his presence. The name, signed away his share of the estate and went back at once to his Wisconsin hut.

High Prices Charged Here.
This is a picture of the first restaurant in the Yukon gold fields. It can scarcely be said to rival the Auditorium dining room, except perhaps in the matter of prices charged. It is the



KLONDIKE'S FIRST RESTAURANT, chief store in Rampart City, the town which grew up in a couple of weeks after the rush to the gold fields began.

Where Biscuits Are Unknown.
Gallipolis, O., Tribune: John S. Rodgers is the boss story teller. He says a man told him that he was over in West Virginia, back in the mountains, where he didn't like the bread they gave him to eat. He asked the woman of the house, kindly, if she never made biscuits. She expressed her utter ignorance of what a biscuit was, and he told her that the next time he came that way he would bring some along, and he did, taking his saddlebags full of them. When he turned them out two of the little boys of the house ran out in the yard with two of them, and when he found the boys directly afterward they were squatting down, taking straw at the biscuits and saying: "Ding ye, stick yer head out'en that shell!" They thought they were terrapins.

Will Manufacture Diamonds.
Hudson Maxim, the inventor of an electric light, the Maxim gun and numerous other things, now claims that he has discovered the process of making genuine diamonds. He has secured patents in this country and in England covering his invention. His process is an electric furnace, in which the metal, calcium carbide and acetylene, in the presence of carbon, can be melted and raised to an exceedingly high temperature by an electric current, causing a heavy absorption of carbon, while at the same time the metals are subjected to a pressure of 50,000 pounds per square inch by means of a hydraulic press. The precipitation under these conditions, when allowed to cool slowly, will give diamonds of considerable size.

Not a day passes over the earth but men and women of no note do great deeds, speak great words, and suffer noble sorrows. Of those obscure heroes, philosophers and martyrs, the greater part will never be known till that hour when many that were great shall be small and the small great.—Charles Reade.

J. E. POOLE, Publisher.

HASKELL, TEXAS.

The Kansas City Star says Chicago girls are flocking in droves to see the Brazilian anaconda that hugged a pony to death.

Two Boston poets are going to try to walk across the Atlantic in pneumatic boots. They probably will wear the boots on their poetic feet.

The sad story is told of a Connecticut girl of disordered mind who possessed by a mania to disrobe, took to the woods. It is strange that she did not take to the stage.

It has been developed by a census of the treasury department that, while the District of Columbia is entitled to only nine appointments, it has 295. The District of Columbia does not vote in presidential elections, but, in an emergency, can easily supply enough officeholders to run the government. The patriots at Washington are content to let the others do the voting as long as they get the official plums.

One of the prominent delegates at the convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union in Toronto was from Iceland. She was interviewed, as a matter of course, and said, for one thing, there are no tramps in Iceland. Possibly one explanation of this cheerful fact is to be found in her remark that by nature the Icelandic is an "intensive disposition." A tramp, as is well known, is intensive. It wears him.

Argentine wheat crops for the last six years have been as follows: 1892, 34,000,000 bushels; 1893, 58,000,000 bushels; 1894, 84,000,000 bushels; 1895, 60,000,000 bushels; 1896, 44,000,000 bushels; 1897 (estimate), 28,000,000 bushels. The exports to Europe have been: 1892, 16,800,000 bushels; 1893, 33,600,000 bushels; 1894, 59,000,000 bushels; 1895, 37,000,000 bushels; 1896, 18,000,000 bushels; 1897 (estimate), 2,000,000 bushels.

It is proposed to establish a commercial museum in San Francisco on lines similar to those of the Philadelphia institution. The purpose is projected as to bring the markets of the Asian-Pacific coast in closer touch with the United States. According to John Barrett, the American minister at Bangkok, the United States has trade opportunities in this direction covering a coast line of 4,000 miles and representing a population of 500,000,000.

That the greatness of the self-made is consequent upon meagre educational advantages is an old superstition fast disappearing, as Ex-President Cleveland pointed out at the recent Princeton commemoration. The successful man whose youth was without advantages has attained success not because of those disadvantages, but in spite of them, and it is logical to infer that with increased intellectual training he would have climbed to still greater eminence.

The uses of lemons are manifold, and the more we employ them the better we shall find ourselves. For all people, in sickness or in health, lemonade is not only a safe but a remarkably pleasant drink. It is a specific against worms and skin complaints. The pippins crushed may also be mixed with water and used as a drink. Lemon juice is the best anti-scorbutic remedy known. It not only cures the disease, but what is better than a cure is a preventive. Sailors make a daily use of it for that purpose. It is a good thing to rub the gums daily with lemon juice to keep them in a healthy condition. It prevents chibbons. Lemon used as intermittent fevers is mixed with strong hot black tea or coffee without sugar. Neuralgia may be cured by rubbing the part afflicted with a lemon. It is valuable also to cure warts and to destroy dandruff on the head by rubbing the roots of the hair with it.

Not very long ago a stray item of fashion reached a missionary among the Indians of the far west. The effect was that braided palm-leaf hats were much worn, and she remembered what fun she had thought that braiding was, when she was a little girl in Louisiana. It flashed upon her that corn-busks might be used for the same purpose, and before evening she had gathered a crowd of eager Indian boys around her and taught them to fashion very presentable hats. "I believe they will sell," she told the young Indians, and they have been sold. "But even if they do not," one lad replied, "we shall never have to buy any more for ourselves." So the nice braiding of palm-leaf, learned in childhood, has resulted in creating a new industry for the Indian. It is always so. Whatever is useful that one learns thoroughly and well is quite sure to come into service in later life.

The league magnates have decided that two umpires must officiate at each game. This will make it much more interesting for the spectators clear down to the left field fence. They couldn't be expected to throw a beer bottle or any other missile with any accuracy as far as the home plate.

Abdul Hamid mildly disclaims responsibility for the pillage of American missions. If this government were to take a lesson from Austria in that Mersina affair Abdul might be brought to see the matter differently.

Samuel E. Morse, ex-consul general to Paris, said, in speaking of city improvements, at a recent banquet in Indianapolis: "A city without parks is like a house without windows, and I never admit a city may be in all other respects, it can make no pretensions to being a modern city until it has a model system of parks."

A Chicago newspaper man has written a lecture showing that Shakespeare was a temperance advocate. We do not recall any of the hard characters who were took the gold cure.



She had resumed his former attitude, and looked at her in a way that made her feel as if she were looking at a stranger. "What a splendid forehead!" Not every woman can boast of hers.

And she glanced her colored necktie complacently and looked hard at the girls. "Rather superb, it seems to me," remarked Miss Chauncey, with affected indifference.

"A very lovely air," said Julia. "Oh, yes. He would make a tyrannical husband," responded Miss Cleverdale, quietly. "I advise no young person to marry him."

"That is Mr. Peters, who came here yesterday," observed Miss Chauncey. "They say her husband will be here soon. They mean to go into tea so early and attract the count's attention."

Miss Chauncey put her hand up to the four-deck and adjusted it spitefully. "The count did not see Mrs. Peters. His eyes were fixed in lofty study on the parterre; he smoked thoughtfully, with haughty air."

Mrs. Peters touched him on the shoulder. The four ladies in the balcony gasped at her audacity. Count in Rammont instantly dropped the cigarette. His look of authority and independence vanished. His proud carriage dissolved into meekness. He took off his hat and smoothed his hair with a doleful hand.

Four noses in the balcony turned skyward; four sighs of contempt breathed toward the stars, and Mrs. Vance exclaimed, bitterly: "Pshaw! Mr. Peters—nothing but a married man, after all!"

Simultaneously Mr. Chauncey's voice as he came through the door to join them announced that the real count had left by a private conveyance half an hour before.

From the Johnson City, Tenn. Comet: As predicted in these columns last week, the democrats fell over themselves, as it were, in their determination to nominate us for magistrate last Friday night. We have been in many conventions where such popular men as Bob Taylor and Bill Bowman were nominated, but we never saw such enthusiasm as was manifested when Haskell Dyer, in a speech that was replete with deserved compliments, presented our name to the convention.

It is now I raised 150 bushels of corn to the acre: in April I put ten loads of stable manure per acre on ten acres of clover and Timothy sod mixed. The last week of April I broke this ground, plowing eight inches deep. I rolled it down after the plow and then worked it once with the rotary hoe instead of disc harrow. I then harrowed twice with ordinary smoothing harrow and rolled down. I planted May 11 and 12, checking 3 feet 8 inches each way. No commercial fertilizer of any kind was used on this corn. As soon as this corn came up I cultivated once each way with the rotary hoe. I then cultivated once each way with cultivator with large shovels on, plowing shallow and keeping ground as level as possible. The ground was ordinary white oak soil and had been in grass for four years, being mowed for hay each year. The variety was the Mastodon, a large-eared yellow dent, ripening in 105 to 110 days. It was planted in three stalks to the hill. The entire field of ten acres will make 150 bushels to the acre.

Matters of Interest to Agriculturalists. Some Up-to-date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Fertilization, Ventilation and Floriculture.

Successful Corn Raising. Six weeks ago we published the experiences of a number of farmers that exhibited corn at the Illinois state fair. Since that time more reports have come in and we give them here:

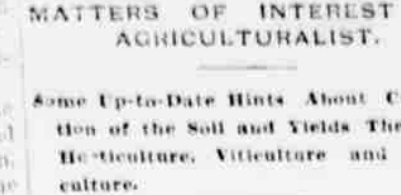
Chas. J. Shepley, Fulton County, Illinois.—The corn that I exhibited at the state fair was raised on second year sod. In April, 1896, it was plowed and planted on onions. They failed to come up and the ground was planted in potatoes. Later the potato bugs came in and took possession and the result was a failure all around. In May, 1897, we plowed, harrowed and planted this ground to corn of the Mastodon variety, but we did not get a stand. Then we harrowed and planted again May 21, using the variety known as Golden Climax. The rows were 3 feet 10 inches apart one way, hills two feet apart the other. Two or three grains were put in a hill. We plowed twice with Eagle Claws. The gophers and moles took out over 200 hills. This corn is a cross of four varieties—Early Yellow Rose, Knox County Premium, Leeward, and a large yellow and red corn called Blackly corn. There was no thinning of this corn that I exhibited, nor was there any extra work put on it.

Ed. V. Bobb, Fulton County, Illinois.—This is how I raised 150 bushels of corn to the acre: in April I put ten loads of stable manure per acre on ten acres of clover and Timothy sod mixed. The last week of April I broke this ground, plowing eight inches deep. I rolled it down after the plow and then worked it once with the rotary hoe instead of disc harrow. I then harrowed twice with ordinary smoothing harrow and rolled down. I planted May 11 and 12, checking 3 feet 8 inches each way. No commercial fertilizer of any kind was used on this corn. As soon as this corn came up I cultivated once each way with the rotary hoe. I then cultivated once each way with cultivator with large shovels on, plowing shallow and keeping ground as level as possible. The ground was ordinary white oak soil and had been in grass for four years, being mowed for hay each year. The variety was the Mastodon, a large-eared yellow dent, ripening in 105 to 110 days. It was planted in three stalks to the hill. The entire field of ten acres will make 150 bushels to the acre.

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For many reasons, heavy pruning, which is a necessity for the grapevine, has been given in the fall. So soon as the leaves are off, the cutting away of superfluous wood may remain. There can be no bleeding, as the cut will dry up at once. There is some circulation of sap all through the vine during warm weather in winter. Pruning in the fall concentrates this sap in the buds that are left, and they always push more vigorously than when the vines are left hanging on the trellises all winter. As soon as the pruning is done the support of the main vine should be loosened and the soil should be thrown on the ground. In most cases snow will be enough protection, but if the vine is where the snow blows away some straw held down by a slight covering of earth will be needed. Vines thus treated will winter without injury, however low the mercury may fall. The vines should be put up on the trellis in spring so soon as danger from late frosts has passed. If the vines are uncovered except by snow, put them up as soon as the snow melts. Lying on the ground and protected from winds, the buds might push too early and be injured. They are not liable to this on the trellis.—Ex.

Of Points About Peaches. P. M. Augur, in Farm and Home. Writes: The essential elements of success with peaches are: 1. Seed from natural pits, free from any taint of disease, with equal care in getting buds; 2. Healthy trees, planted on high, dry land, where no peach trees have stood before, with moderate, clean culture up to July, yearly (not afterward) so as to secure only well ripened wood in autumn. 3. The yearly application of some perfect manure, potash included. These things are all important. There are a few other points which I desire to emphasize: First, the practice of moderation in the early years of a peach orchard, to be followed after maturity by a very liberal management. Second, never let an orchard bear a breaking crop; a moderate crop of large peaches is more valuable than a very heavy crop of small peaches; besides, it is far less exhausting. Again, the practice of cutting back the branches as they grow, so that the number of blossoms helps the matter of thinning and



Triumph for the Editor. Whirlwind of Excitement Attending His Nomination as Magistrate. From the Johnson City, Tenn. Comet: As predicted in these columns last week, the democrats fell over themselves, as it were, in their determination to nominate us for magistrate last Friday night. We have been in many conventions where such popular men as Bob Taylor and Bill Bowman were nominated, but we never saw such enthusiasm as was manifested when Haskell Dyer, in a speech that was replete with deserved compliments, presented our name to the convention.

Plovers Resting at Sea. Pacific Coast Captain Sees Several Swimming Far from Land. From the San Francisco Call: Up to within a few days of the arrival here from Honolulu of the Oceanic Steamship Company's steamer Australia, Captain Houdlette says the owner of a plover that came aboard while on its way from Alaska to Hawaii. These birds are not wet footed, and the captain seems to have solved the problem as to whether they ever rest on the water during their long flight. Captain Houdlette says they do. "It was during the run from San Francisco to Honolulu that I saw several plovers in the water resting," says he. "When the steamer came too near they would rise out of the water with a few flaps of their wings, but, being very tired, they would settle back into the water again. In its efforts to get away one of them came on board and I lived until a few days ago. I always thought the birds made a continuous flight of over 2,000 miles, but I am now satisfied that the birds rest on the waves when tired."

Telegraph in the Suez Canal. A most ingenious system is employed by which the director of the Suez canal can tell at a glance the exact position of all vessels passing through it. A model is placed in the office at Port Said and the whole canal is worked from headquarters by means of the telegraph, the position of each ship being marked by a figure on the model. It is thus made easy to arrange for vessels passing each other.

All Royalty Related. Nearly all the royal personages of Europe are cousins, and not very far removed, as it has been laid down by a German genealogist that every crowned head of Europe, excepting Turkey, is descended from one or other of two sisters, who lived about 150 years ago.

What is counting danger, Uncle Sam? "Any kind of counting," Chicago Free-Press.

LUCKY TO GET OUT ALIVE. Patients in a Chinese Hospital Have Little Chance to Recover. From the London Mail: If ever the surroundings were conducive to ill health or a prolongation of disease, those of a Chinese hospital are certainly meant to be productive of continued revenue to the owner. For, be it known, the Chinese hospital is a private institution run by the undertaker. He is always on the safe side. If the patient keeps alive he gets money for caring for him. If his friends tire of paying for his keep he is placed in the "chamber of tranquillity." After he dies the undertaker, that poor bah who has three offices only, buries him and makes money out of him to the last. Imagine a room about ten feet wide and twelve feet long, filled with the odds and ends of a junk shop. Let this room be so dark that it takes two candles to make a light, and so filled with the malodorous smells that are usually met with in Chinatown dens that a strong man hesitates before he enters and gasps for breath after he gets inside. Place a half dozen bunks round the walls and a caudron in which some witches' broth is boiling in the corner. Let the three cats which make themselves at home on the bunks with the sick Chinamen be insufficient to watch them all. Imagine all this, and you may have some slight conception of what the interior of a Chinese hospital looks like. If your imagination is very vivid, and you have seen Chinese opium dens, you may get pretty close to the real thing. Otherwise it is beyond imagination. But the front room above described is elysium in comparison with the one at the back. There are grades of darkness, the scientists tell us, and these grades may be found in a Chinese hospital. Some darkness can be seen, some can be felt. That in the back room can be felt palpably. In fact, it is present to all human senses at once. It can be tasted. It can be heard. It can be seen. It can be felt. That it can be smelled goes without saying. You stand just within the opening, which by courtesy is called a door, and you hear breathing, as if someone were exhausted after a long run. You are not mistaken. It is a man breathing heavily in his race with death. He is still alive, and you wonder why. Groping your way, you reach some stationary object and light a match. It just gives enough light to enable you to see a candle on a bench and you light that. Then you feel that an electric arc light would be another of those things to enable you to pierce that Stygian darkness. It is well, perhaps, that you have an obscured vision. It is possible that if you could see all that is in the room at once, you, too, would be a sick man. It is a noisome den, where vermin abound; where rats make their home; where the living and the dead humanity lie side by side—the one waiting for its coffin and the other for the cessation of the struggle for breath.

He Know Her. She (reading)—Isn't this awful? It says here that Mrs. Munkle yesterday knocked down by a scorching yesterday and rendered speechless? Here—Oh, that's evidently another of those newspaper exaggerations. I wonder why they can't stick to facts?—Cleveland Leader.

Football Features. He—Were there any striking features in to-day's football game? She—Oh, yes; that's what the players appeared to be striking principally.—Yonkers Statesman.

THIS AND THAT. A wide-awake dealer in dogs advertised "Whines and Lickers" of all kinds in a temperate Maine town, and has a large list of customers each day. The saddest news of the autumn is that some of the Maine county merchants will no longer turn their stores into smoking rooms during the winter.—Boston Herald.

Impaction by Corn Stalks.—Jefferson Bee: Mr. Lew Dizon, of this city, buried four fine cows from his farm up in Harlem township last Friday. They all died the night before, and were the victims of corn stalks eaten in unlimited quantities. They had been turned into the cornfield after husking was over, and ate too much of the dry stalks. In some localities where similar cases have occurred this malady has been called the corn-stalk disease, but Dr. Williamson, who examined these cases, says it is no disease at all, but a natural consequence of taking in more dry food than the gastric juices can handle. He found in the stomachs of the dead cows a large solid roll or bundle of material, which was packed so hard that nothing could phase it but an axe, and this condition brought on speedy death. Farmers should take warning from this case, and allow their cattle to eat the stalks sparingly at first. Up in Calhoun county a man lost ten head in a single night. With cattle at the present prices it will pay better to be very cautious in this matter.

Beef and Butter.—Prof. T. L. Hacker of the Minnesota experiment station has been testing the comparative cost of making beef and butter. So he fed four steers along with his herd of cows, giving them, however, a ration for making beef, to the cows was given the feed appropriate for milk and butter production. After six weeks feeding he figured the cost of the butter at three cents per pound, while the beef was 34-10 cents per pound, as nearly as he could estimate it from live weight. It is fairly to be presumed that in the cost of butter the labor required to make it was not estimated. It is probable also that the cows experimented on were in full flow of milk, and therefore could, for a short time, produce butter at very low rates. But the animal has to be kept twelve months with much less product of milk, in order to enable it to make this low record.—Ex.

Artificial heat is seldom necessary in buildings for the stock. The natural heat is better, and in barns properly built and taken care of, the natural heat will be all that is desired.

IRONICAL BANK. One Woman's Qual Bank. Through gift of speech, Miss Kate G. of the observatory hospital, St. Louis, one word in twenty was 27 years old, and stress, Kate made a vow to tell that she would never speak "No" to a question, she has most religiously kept her word, and at 47 incurably insane. At the city hospital she is regarded as a mystery, and the queerest insane woman that ever entered the institution. She refuses to eat or drink and can be picked up and carried around without the slightest remonstrance from her. If a nurse motions her, she is fixed in a corner of the ward and remains a motionless fixture. She acts like an automaton. She moves only when somebody moves her. She seems afraid of a man. She tries to hide from him and seeks the most secluded corner in trying to avoid him. One morning she placed her hand on a hot register. It must have hurt her, for there was a red mark on her hand. But she said not a word, made no sound, and any amount of begging could not induce her to utter a syllable. The other patients regard her with wonder, not unmixed with fear, and even the nurse is afraid that she will break into some violent act before long. She is becoming weak, however, because she will accept no nourishment.

In a neatly kept but huddled home at 811 South Third street, was the old, widowed mother of Kate Schieber. Her form is bent, almost doubled, caused by hard work. She is 77 years old and too feeble to care for her unfortunate daughter. In broken English Mrs. Schieber told the story of Kate's life. She said that her daughter had to go out to work early because her father had died, leaving the family penniless. She was always a jolly, light-hearted girl and ambitious to get on. She grew up a handsome woman, and many eligible young men sought her acquaintance. When about 20 years old she fell in love with one of them. Her lover proved faithless, however, and on the day she learned the news her demeanor commenced to change. She lost all desire for company, amusement or recreation, and never went out of the room after her work was done. "She continued in this way for six years," said Mrs. Schieber. "Remonstrance was of no avail, and noticing that he was breaking down, I begged her to drive away her melancholia. Persistent in my entreaties one day she turned round and said: 'There, I'll ever speak to you no more again, if I live to be 100 years old.' Her fellow symptoms of insanity then became hopelessly ill. I tried doctors and medicine sufficient to enable her to be in the house. During these intervals she would be violent. I feared her harm and sent her to the hospital. About six years ago Kate replied to a question asked of her. That is the only word I heard her utter in six years. Sometimes she would laugh a joke, but not if she knew she was observed."

The Three-Volume Novel. Some time ago the burning question among publishers in London was the three-volume novel: Should it continue to exist, or should it be extinguished to make room for the two-volume book at a quarter of the price? That question having been fairly settled against the three-volume form now comes a new one, concerning cut or uncut pages for books. The people who write against the uncut form are usually busy newspaper men, who have no time to wield the paper knife. One of these says: "From the standpoint of political economy the present old-fashioned system is utterly wrong and particularly so in novels, which are meant to be read by busy people and not treasured by bibliomaniacs. A few weeks ago Mr. Heinemann published a novel, of which over 100,000 copies are now in circulation. The book was sent out with the uncut pages. It takes at least a quarter of an hour for each new reader to cut those 25,000 precious hours of the public time have necessarily been occupied in the profitless work of cutting the pages of that one book alone. The bookbinder's gullotine would do the work in a fifth part of that time. And the bookbinder is earning his living."

Giving the Selter a Hint. From the Washington Star: "You have been very generous in buying Mabel new gowns," remarked Mrs. Cumrox. "Yes," said her husband. "I don't like that man who pays her so much attention. 'I don't see what that has to do with it.' 'I desire to give him something to think about when I ask him if he can support her in the style to which she has been accustomed.'"

An Extraordinary Electric Clock. An electric clock has just been erected on the southeast side of Piccadilly Circus, London. Electric lamps are fixed along the moving bands and there are electric stars fixed at each figure. The clock is worked on the Synchronome syndicate's system, in conjunction with a number of other clocks.

Fewer English Marriages. During the queen's reign there has been a diminution in the marriage rate in England. The rapid increase in the population has been brought about by a decline in the death rate.

Rheumatism. Hood's Sarsaparilla Gives Complete Relief, Also Cures Gout. "I was troubled with rheumatism and had running sores on my face. One of my friends advised me to try Hood's Sarsaparilla, which I did. After taking six bottles I was cured. Hood's Sarsaparilla is also cured me of catarrh." MISS MAMIE STUBBS, 4603 Mollit Ave., St. Louis, Mo. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best—the One True Blood Purifier. Hood's Pills cure constipation. 25 cents.

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Haskell Free Press.

J. E. POOL, Publisher.

HASKELL, TEXAS.

Another day of rain has passed over the Haskell country. The weather is not so good as it was some days ago.

Eastern hotels are introducing the new style of breakfast. Some day an enterprising eastern hotel man will startle the world by serving an edible meal.

That book agent who killed himself in Michigan probably tried to tell the Hon. Hazen Pingree a few things and then was obliged to drown himself.

Germany's foolish hostility to England, as voiced through her monarch, naturally gives offense to Austrian and Italian statesmen, and to that extent weakens the tie between the two nations. Thus far the net result of the Kaiser's treachery in his efforts to isolate England has been the creation of a distrust toward himself among his friends which may if his friends persist in isolating Germany.

Maurice Despres, an electrical engineer of Cordova, Spain, reports a remarkable shower of electrified rain which he recently witnessed. The day had been warm and windless and about 5 in. in the evening the sun was overcast with dense clouds lowering from the horizon. Soon after dark there was a flash of lightning, and two minutes later great drops of rain fell which cracked faintly on touching the ground. From each of them sparks darted toward the walls, trees and soil they fell upon. The phenomenon lasted several seconds, and apparently ceased when the air between cloud and earth became saturated with moisture.

The college boy who wins the prize for the best essays or the best oration, or who graduates with the highest honors, is not in it today with the boy who kicks a goal from the field or partners around the end for a touchdown. The brilliant student remains in obscurity. The husky hero of the gridiron sees his picture in the papers, and reads with avidity columns after columns of fulsome rot about his feats on the football field. But the student still has an advantage over the athlete. In his maturer years he is much more likely to see his portrait among the list of those who have achieved greatness in the great battle of life.

A new use for onions has been discovered. Recently bloodhounds were turned loose upon the trail of some bank burglars in Indiana. The man hunt, however, lasted only a few minutes. Suddenly the leading dog began howling dismally and refused to go further, and it was impossible to continue the chase. A prisner now in jail at Kokomo has turned state's evidence and given the police all the facts concerning the burglary and the subsequent escape of the men. He says the bloodhounds were thrown off the scent without any trouble by rubbing an onion on the shoes worn by the burglars. He says that no bloodhounds can be induced to follow an onion trail. Dogs are a good deal like people all.

Physiology, would it not very much more to know a good deal about diet, exercise, a good and bad air, than to name all the bones, or to classify all the muscles? Will all keep their places just as rapidly and firmly as they are numbered or unnumbered, but both mind and body will fare better if the lungs are not fed on bad air. So the muscles will expand and contract and develop and strengthen whether counted and classified or not; but they and the whole system may slacken or totally stop their action if the stomach is supplied with unwholesome food. Let the study, therefore, be directed at first to parts of the system under control, and afterward, if there be time, to the parts not under control. These latter may be studied at leisure, for general information, as we study comets and eclipses.

A French scientist, M. Liebaux, has probably had more experience and has done more to establish the claims of hypnotism than any modern physician. According to him, the dangers of hypnotism are non-existent if it is employed by fit and proper persons who, whether to themselves or others, suggest only what is in harmony with the physiological functions of the organism; otherwise the dangers are obvious. In itself the induced sleep like ordinary sleep, is a condition which tends to the equilibrium of nerve forces and of the organic movements which those forces excite. The special qualities required for the production of the hypnotic sleep are self-confidence, assurance of success and a persuasive manner on the part of a hypnotizer; on the part of the subject, the wish to be hypnotized, confidence in the hypnotizer and free consent to the imposition of his suggestion.

It is a somewhat singular fact that while the cities of England are every year getting a larger measure of home rule, the cities of America are actually getting less of it. There is hardly a city in the country whose local affairs are not mediated with by the county or the state government.

The Kaiser is said to have killed 33,967 head of game with his own hand during the last two decades. With such a record as this it is a little surprising that he has concluded not to take a shot at Haiti.

If the statement by Dr. Briggs of the New York health department that "one person in seven in New York dies of consumption" is meant as applying annually the suspicion that about half of New York is dead seems to be officially confirmed.

A statistician has figured that there were nearly \$3,000,000,000 worth of diamonds in Solomon's temple. This verifies the statement made by an eminent authority that Solomon's temple was built by donations from hotel clerks.

BIG WHEAT DEAL.

High Prices Have Attracted Wheat to Chicago from Every Direction.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 20.—A Chicago paper said yesterday: "There are just twelve days left to make or unmake the December wheat deal. The chances for drawdowns and old time corner prices are scarcely as bright as they were some time ago. Letter is learning something about the possibilities of Chicago as a receiving market and about the resources of Armour. In the last two days the local stock of wheat has been increased by 1,250,000 bushels. Such a movement is simply phenomenal and represents a part of the energetic campaign made by Armour and Weare. The last cargoes of an abnormal high Chicago movement, aggregating 2,615,000 bushels, are arriving. Part of it has gone into public elevators and part into private houses. Armour knows just how much contract wheat is here. Letter would give a snug sum for the exact information as to how much of the Chicago stock has come here to fill short sales to him, and how much is here to be dumped out on December advances, such as those of last Friday and last Monday. Letter has been holding a large assortment of speculative cards and has been playing them rapidly. He has brought the deal up from July to September, and from September to December, but only recently has been pushing prices to a point to bring wheat from all directions.

This is the situation which promises to give Armour an opportunity to recoup any actual losses in his operations, and some of his consequential losses for not having taken the bull side of the market when he came from Europe and held to it aggressively since. Letter has disclaimed any intention to corner wheat. Armour has disclaimed doing anything but a warehouseman's business. Letter's operations, and more particularly his announcements of plans to move the entire Chicago stock of wheat out of the country, have put wheat at \$1.09, and forcing Chicago out of line with other markets, have started an avalanche of wheat to Chicago.

As an elevator man, Armour's opportunity lies in the accumulation at Chicago of a stock of wheat such as did not seem possible at the beginning of the season. The demand and supply prospect at the opening of the wheat season was that Chicago would get but little wheat. By reason of a chronic corner, recently reaching more acute stages at or above \$1 per bushel, the chances are good for a local stock of wheat of 10,000,000 bushels by the end of December. There has been attracted to this market wheat originally laid by for milling not only in the northwest, but in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and as far east as Buffalo.

CORBETT AND FITZSIMMONS.

It is Thought That They Will Meet in the Ring Again.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 20.—It is pretty nearly assured that Fitzsimmons will fight Corbett. Dan Stuart is to meet Julian in Chicago this week and arrange the details. For some time Fitz has been showing signs of receding from his expressed determination never to enter the ring again. Popular pressure is having its effect. The idea that Corbett's defeat at Carson last spring was wholly accidental has never been eradicated from some minds, and will not be until Fitz meets and defeats Corbett again. Of late Fitz's theatrical ventures have not been bringing in the money that he thought he should receive. The sum handed to him at Carson is rapidly fading away, and he has got to have more. As Stuart practically controls the big pugilistic business in the country, he will handle all the details. He has been in communication with both Fitzsimmons and Corbett for some time, and the meeting with Julian at Chicago this week is the result. Should the men get together, the fight will not take place till July or August of next year, when Stuart is preparing to give a great carnival at Carson. As soon as he gets the big fellows in line Stuart will go after McCoy, Peter Maher and the others that he wants.

Found Dead.

New York, Dec. 20.—Beverly Ward, Jr., heir to an immense estate, and received in the most select of New York's society circles, was found dead in Balthasar Golf clubhouse, near Short Hills, N. J., yesterday morning. That he ended his life because the young woman he loved, and whom he had hoped to marry, is about to wed another, is stated by his father. He was at the home of his parents here up to last Monday, and seemed in the best of spirits, and was making plans for the future, both as to society and business.

Instantly Killed.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 20.—While piloting a heavy train up the Merchants' bridge incline yesterday an engine of the Terminal Railway association jumped the track and plunged to the ground. The fireman was instantly killed, and Engineer J. H. McCulloch was dashed head first through the cab window and injured. W. H. Cobb, yard agent of the East Side yards, had several ribs broken. Fireman Pingsler was crushed into an unrecognizable mass.

Railroad Extension.

Topka, Kan., Dec. 20.—J. J. Hagerman, president of the Peoria Valley railway, has obtained subscriptions of capital from eastern men for the extension of the road from Roswell, N. M., to the terminus of the Atchison, Topka and Santa Fe railway at Panshandle, Texas, and the construction of the extension will be commenced in the spring. Mr. Hagerman has been in New York for some time, endeavoring to raise the capital for the extension.

Col. Ruiz Executed.

Havana, Dec. 20.—The news telegraphed to the United States via Key West that Col. Ruiz has been shot by Aranguren was confirmed. Ruiz is an old de camp of Marshal Blanco, the captain general of Cuba, and was recently sent to confer with the insurgents.

Col. Ruiz proceeded into the country on Monday last, having previously written a letter to Aranguren.

Saturday night a consular employe, Senor Tosca, who had been commissioned by Gen. Lee to make inquiries, returned from Campo, Florida, three leagues distant from the insurgent encampment at Tubacara. He says he met outposts of Aranguren's force and that the chief of the party confirmed the report that on his arrival Col. Ruiz was met by Aranguren and an escort of twelve men who received him warmly. Ruiz urged the party to accept autonomy, and congratulated himself that he would induce them to return with him to Havana.

The insurgents in camp had not been prepared for the visit by Aranguren and seeing Ruiz in his uniform and learning the object of his visit, they demanded the application of the proclamation of Gomez and Rodriguez, which orders the infliction of death penalty on all persons who attempt to induce chiefs of the rebellion to surrender.

In compliance with their demands a courtmartial was formed and the sentence of death was passed upon Ruiz.

Senor Tosca adds that Aranguren stood aloof during the trial and allowed the death sentence to be carried out. Col. Ruiz was executed with a machete.

FISHING SMACKS.

Seven Seized by the United States Revenue Cutter McLane.

New York, Dec. 20.—According to a correspondent in Punta Gorda, Florida, the United States revenue cutter McLane, Capt. Reynolds, has arrived there with seven Spanish fishing smacks that were seized for violation of the navigation laws. The smacks have been turned over to the custody of the customs authorities.

The officers of the McLane report that while cruising along the west coast in the vicinity of Charlotte harbor they discovered the vessels fishing in American waters. On the approach of the cutter the Spaniards made an effort to escape, but were apprehended, an officer placed aboard and under the escort of the McLane were brought in to port.

The vessels are offed in Havana and were fishing for that market. They have neither registers nor foreign clearance, but are merely provided with a permit from the Spanish authorities authorizing them to fish on the high seas.

Owing to the scarcity of fish on the Cuban coast the shallow waters of Florida, with an almost inexhaustible supply, offer special inducements to those vessels, who assemble at all times in the vicinity of Dry Tortugas and along the entire coast west of Florida.

Complaints have frequently been lodged against them, charging them with smuggling liquors and landing refugees from Cuba, thus menacing the health of the entire gulf coast by the introduction of yellow fever and smallpox. The seizure of seven smacks, it is said, is for the failure of their masters to report arrival at the customhouse, required by section 2773 of the revised. The masters claim that their arrival was not voluntary, but that they were compelled to seek the harbor because of bad weather. In view of the fact that several suits against the McLane, are now pending in the United States district court because of seizures made of Spanish fishing vessels in this district under similar conditions, the outcome of the present case is awaited with interest. The matter has been reported to Washington.

New Railroad.

Guthrie, Ok., Dec. 20.—It was authoritatively announced here yesterday that the Gould lines are taking the proposed building of the Kansas, Oklahoma and Southwestern railway, and will push it to completion at once across Oklahoma from Coffeyville, Kan., into Texas in order to tap the cattle country and the territory heretofore controlled by the Santa Fe, Rock Island and Denver and Gulf.

Hawaiian Treaty.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—A special from Washington says: "There has been a decided change in the situation of the Hawaiian treaty within the last few days and the members of the committee on foreign relations are now quite confident of its ratification. Senator Hear says he is not opposed to the annexation of the Hawaiian islands as a territory, provided the rights of natives are thoroughly protected."

Wires Broken.

Texas, Ark., Dec. 20.—The most wonderful weather that has ever visited this country has prevailed here for the past thirty-six hours. The earth is covered with a heavy coating of ice, which has completely suspended all modes of intercourse. The same condition prevailed over the trees and shrubbery, many valuable shade trees being broken down under the weight of the ice. In some parts of the city the sidewalks are entirely blocked in consequence. All telegraph wires have been prostrated in every direction.

Probably Lying.

Wickwire—"Either Mudge is more humble than any other known man, or he is a liar." "Yahsley—"Will you please explain?" "He says he doesn't believe he would look well in knickerbockers."—Indianapolis Journal.

Eno's Ebon's Philosophy.

"You can't alius tell which ter put de credit by alius at de surface," said Eno Ebon. "De cork on de fishin' line dances around an' attracts a heap 'o' tention." But 'is de hook dat's doin' business?—Washington Star.

Damage Done by Sleet and Ice.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 20.—Dallas was almost completely cut off from the outside world yesterday. All of the wires of the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph companies were down in every direction. The telephone company was almost as badly crippled, but along in the evening got a wire to Galveston, and over this they got a brief telegraphic service. The telegraph companies say that this is the worst tie-up in the history of the companies. Saturday they were working one or two of the long circuits, and supposed that they might pull through in some sort of shape, though considerably battered. Yesterday the thaw set in, and the damage was troubled. Poles are down by the hundreds, wires snapped in their work, and from one cause and another, not a message was able to go through. For only part of the day the Postal was working with Texas.

From there business went to Memphis the best way it could. Reports from all over the state are to the effect that the storm was general over north, east and west Texas, and that its severity was not tempered. Farmers are of opinion that the loss in benefit to winter wheat, but the loss in cattle and sheep may counterbalance this. The railroads have had their schedules badly disarranged by the storm. All trains into Dallas were late, and the prostration of wires led to almost inextricable confusion. Estimates of damage in the north end of the state vary from \$25,000 to \$100,000. Accurate figures will not be obtainable until all the reports are in. Between two stations on the Houston and Texas Central twenty-three poles are down, and this is said to be an indication of the work of the sleet and wind.

Today the chances are that things will be in shape again. The telegraph and telephone companies say they will have enough wires to handle their business, the work of restoration having begun early yesterday.

COMPRESS MEN.

They Make Complaint to the Railroad Commission Against Cotton Shippers.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 20.—A compress man has complained to the railroad commission that certain cotton shippers are shipping past first compresses to their own presses under through bills of lading, and that at their own presses these shipments are exchanged for other lots of cotton, and in some cases are forwarded as local cotton in fact. General Attorney Perkins and General Freight Agent Barnhart of the Cotton Belt yesterday stated the above practice works an injustice to the railroads, to protect themselves, and thought the commission should investigate and remedy the wrong. The commission informed the gentlemen that where railroads had proof of the above fact, they could refuse to refund the charge for hauling from point of origin to compress. It was stated the railroads, to protect themselves, would have to have a man employed at each compress to keep tab on each bale of cotton. Mention was made before the commission of another sharp practice in the way of changing marks on the cotton by additions at the compress.

Attempt at Poisoning.

Brenham, Tex., Dec. 20.—John Thompson, colored, is night fireman at the oil mill, and carries his dinner from home to his work in a little tin bucket. Wednesday night he started to eat his midnight meal when he noticed a somewhat peculiar taste and a close examination of the food showed spots of a dark purplish tint on the biscuit, rice and other contents of the bucket. Thompson lost his appetite and quit eating at once. Yesterday morning he carried the bucket of food to Dr. T. O. Hynes, who, in turn, took it to Tristram's drug store. The stuff turned out to be London purple. He doesn't know who put it in his bucket.

Teachers Meet.

Abilene, Tex., Dec. 20.—The Taylor County Teachers' association was in session at Simmons' college Friday evening and yesterday. The exercises were very interesting and instructive, though the attendance was small on account of the disagreeable weather. Prof. W. F. Chatfield was elected president, and Miss Lulu Greer secretary. The next meeting will be held on the third Friday in February in the Abilene public school building.

Carried off a Safe.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 20.—Burglars broke into the store of Mrs. F. Bubola, near the county poorhouse, before day-break yesterday morning and carried off an iron safe weighing about 300 pounds. The safe contained \$70 in money and vendor's lien notes amounting to \$280. Mrs. Bubola and two daughters were sleeping in a room adjoining the store, but heard nothing of the burglars. The safe was carried off in a wagon.

A Romantic Marriage.

Tom Bean, Tex., Dec. 20.—A romantic marriage between two of the best known young people in this locality has just been announced. Last August, Mr. John Pendie, Jr., and Miss Alice Frisbie were married by Rev. Mr. Mulkey. They agreed to keep the fact of their marriage secret until Christmas day. This they did until a day or so ago. After the ceremony the groom returned to school at Whitewright, and the bride to her home. The groom confided in one of his fellow-students. It was all over, then.

The Inroads of the Wheel.

"Brother Jim has the bicycle club, Joe has the bicycle hump, Sister Sue has the bicycle leg and Tom has wheels in his head." "Any other bicycle ailments in the family?" "Well, papa says his pocketbook is badly punctured, so it must be getting pneumatic."—Truth.

Switzerland's Fighting Force.

Switzerland, though she spends only half a million dollars yearly on her army, can turn out 100,000 trained men in ten days. In case of need she has a reserve of 100,000 more and a land-army of 270,000.

George Caulfield's Journey

By Miss F. E. Braddon.

CHAPTER I.—(Continued.)
He took the card from his breast-pocket and handed it to the station-master.

"Mr. Elsdon, Briarcliff," the man read aloud.
"Elsdon," said the doctor. "I know an Elsdon of Briarcliff—a big man with large white whiskers?" he interrogated, turning to the curate.

"No, this was a young man; pale, dark and good looking."
"Ah, I don't know who he can be. There'll have to be an inquest to-morrow morning, and the best thing we can do is to telegraph to Elsdon, of Briarcliff, directly the office is open. Very strange that the lady's friends should not have appeared."

"I shall lose my train," cried George Caulfield, seeing the last lingerers hurrying to their places. "Here's my card," handing one to the doctor. "You may communicate to me at that address. Any assistance that I can give—"
"Beg your pardon, sir," said the constable, laying an obliging hand upon him. "I shall be obliged to detain you till this business is settled."

"I shall be wanted as a witness at the inquest."
"Yes, sir; most likely, sir. It will be my duty to detain you. Better not talk too freely, sir. Any statement you now make may be used against you later on."
The curate looked at him with surprise.

"Do you mean to say that I am your prisoner—that you want to lock me up?"
"Well, yes, sir. Very suspicious case, you see. Young lady poisoned—friends not forthcoming. No doubt you'll be able to explain matters to-morrow; but for to-night you must consider yourself in custody."

"Yes, of course, I shall be able to explain," said George Caulfield, calm and bold, now that he found himself face to face with actual peril, "but it is a most painful position. I feel that a trap has been set for me."

"You had better hold your tongue," said the doctor, frowning.
So the London Mail left without George Caulfield, who was conveyed in a cab to Milldale Jail, where he was subjected to the ignominious process of having his pockets searched by a jailer. In one of them was found the little bottle given him by the gentleman at Grandchester, and this, together with a few other trifles, was handed over to the authorities for investigation.

CHAPTER II.

INSTEAD of making any vain attempt at sleep, George Caulfield asked for pens, ink and paper, and a lamp that would last him for the best part of the night; and on these luxuries being conceded, he sat down to write a long letter to his mother, relating all the circumstances of his miserable journey, and entreating her not to take alarm at his situation, whatever she might read about him in the newspapers. This letter, which would travel by the morning post, could be preceded by a telegram, informing the old lady that her son was safe, and detained at Milldale on business. Some hours of anxiety the son could not spare that beloved mother; and it was more painful to him to think of her trouble, when five o'clock came and brought, with the returning traveler, than to contemplate his own position.

"Dear old lady! I can fancy her and all her neat and careful arrangements for my comfort," mused Mr. Caulfield. "I know how distrustful she will be of the maids, and how she will insist upon getting up at four o'clock in order to see about my breakfast. And then when the time comes, and no hansom drives up to the gate, what agonies she will suffer! For I have never accustomed her to disappointments. I have never broken my word to her in my life."

The curate fretted and fumed at the thought of his mother's anxiety. He was an only and an adoring son—at thirty-two years of age a confirmed bachelor, loving no one on earth as well as he loved the widowed mother whose cherished companion he had been from childhood upward. Had she not removed her dearly loved goods and chattels to Eton, and lived in a small house in the High street all the time her boy was at school there? Had she not followed him to Cambridge as faithfully as a sutler follows a camp? And now she had one of the prettiest houses in South Kensington, and her son was first curate at the most intensely Gothic church in that locality. George Caulfield's mother was the love of his life. He had been assisting at an arched festival at a small town near Grandchester, where an old college friend of his father was vicar, and had been only three days away from the dainty little nest at South Kensington, where blue china plates had just broken out like pimples on a asparagus wall, and where the Queen Anne manna showed itself modestly in divers inexpensive details.

"Poor mother!" sighed George; "a telegram can hardly reach her before nine o'clock at the earliest."
He read his Tennyson; he dozed a little; he got rid of the night somehow and at seven o'clock he had written and dispatched two telegrams.

The first was to his mother; the second was to the vicar from whom he had parted at eleven o'clock the previous morning, and to whom he was inclined to look for succor, as one of the cleverest and most energetic men he knew.

This latter message was brief: "From George Caulfield, Milldale Jail, to Edward Leworthy, Freshmead Vicarage.—Come to me at once, for God's sake! I am in a great difficulty."
Mr. Caulfield's janitor brought him a comfortable breakfast by and by, and was inclined to sympathize. He knew a gentleman when he saw one, he told the curate, though he had had to deal with a rough lot in this beastly hole.

He had seen a good many murderers in his time, and the possibility of his prisoner's guilt made very little difference to his feelings. Guilty or not guilty, a man who was free-handed with half-crown pieces was entitled to respect. The difference between a half-crown and a florin, was just the difference between your real gentleman and the spurious article. The actual amount was not much, but that odd sixpence marked the distinction.

"This functionary informed Mr. Caulfield that the inquest was to take place at four o'clock that afternoon. "Which gives you time to communicate with your solicitor," he added, grandly.

"But I haven't any solicitor," answered the prisoner. "I never had any law business in my life."
"So much the better for you, sir," responded the jailer, sententiously; "but you must have a lawyer to watch this here case for you."

"I'll wait till my friend, the Vicar of Freshmead, comes, and take his advice about it," said George. "I know he'll come as soon as the rail can bring him."
His confidence was not ill-placed. Soon after noon Mr. Leworthy was ushered into his room. He was busy then fifty and sixty—a man with a countenance full of vivid intelligence, bright brown eyes, and gray hair, worn longer than the fashion. It was altogether a poetic head; but the man's temperament fitted him for action and effort as thoroughly as his intellect gave him mastery in brain-work.

Such a friend as this was verily a friend in need. The two men clasped hands, and for the first minute George Caulfield was speechless.

"Tell me all about it," said the vicar, sitting down by his friend's side with as cheerful an air as if it were a common thing for him to find a friend in prison.

George Caulfield related his dreadful adventure of the previous night, the vicar listening intently, with knitted brows. "It looks very like murder," he said at last. "The poor creature was carried to the station in a dying state, and that stentorian breathing you noticed when the train started was the last struggle. Don't be afraid, my dear boy; there's not the slightest reason for uneasiness. Our business is to find out all about this poor lady, and the man who placed her in the train. She must have been brought to the station in some kind of vehicle—cab, bath-chair—something. The first thing to be done is to have inquiries made among the cabmen and cab proprietors. The police will do all that; but I shall have to watch your interests in the matter. You must have a clever lawyer, too, to watch the case. Brockbank, of Grandchester, will be the man—always about the criminal court there, up to every move, I'll telegraph to him instantly. The inquest is to be at four, you say. I must get it put off till five."

"How good you are!" exclaimed George, "and how clever!"
"I'm a man of the world, that's all. Some pious people think that a parson has no right to be a man of the world, forgetting who it was that told us to be wise as serpents. I'm not the popular idea of a parson, you know, by any means; but I can serve a friend as well as your strait-laced specimen of the breed."

He was a man of abounding cheerfulness and infinite capacity for work, as prone to embellish his conversation with occasional flowers of modern slang as he had been forty years ago at Eton. He was just the man George Caulfield wanted in this crisis of his life.

He telegraphed to the Grandchester attorney, and got the inquest postponed from four till five. He saw the medical man; he talked to the police. A police officer had started for Grandchester by an early train to hunt up the owner of the card, and obtain as much information as could be got in a few hours.

The inquest was held at the chief hotel in Milldale, in a large dining-room, which was only used on civic and particular occasions. Here, under a blaze of gas, the curate of St. Philemon's, South Kensington, found himself for the first time in his life face to face with a British jury and a British coroner.

Mr. Hargrave, M. R. C. S., general practitioner at Milldale, declared that the deceased, name unknown, had died from the effects of a large dose of laudanum. There had been no post-mortem, and he saw no necessity for one. The color of the face, the odor of the lips, the abnormal coldness of the corpse, were sufficient evidence as to the nature of the poison. The bottle found in the prisoner's possession contained laudanum. Sensation!

The railway guard and station-master stated all they knew about the arrival of the deceased at Milldale Junction. Both described the prisoner as violently agitated.

The constable who had been sent to Grandchester was next examined. He had found Mr. Elsdon, of Briarcliff—a man of sixty, stout, gray, bald, in every attribute unlike the man described so graphically by Mr. Caulfield. Mr. Elsdon had been able to offer no suggestion as to the stranger who had made such a shameful use of his card.

The constable had afterward gone to no less than four cab-yards, where he had made all inquiries possible in the limited time. He had been unable to find any cabman who had driven an invalid lady to the station on the previous evening. He had next hunted the only bath-chair proprietor in Grandchester, with the same result. Time had not allowed him to visit the numerous chemists' shops in that thriving city, and that remained to be done.

There was no evidence on Mr. Caulfield's behalf, except the Vicar of Freshmead's evidence as to his character and antecedents, and to the fact that he only parted with him at eleven o'clock on the previous morning at the Freshmead Road Station. Freshmead was seven miles from Grandchester.

"What was Mr. Caulfield going to do when he left you?" asked the coroner.

"He was going to spend the day in Grandchester."

"Has he any friends or acquaintances in that city?"

"No. He was going to look at the cathedral and law-courts, and to spend an hour or two in the Oldbury Library."

"He was to dine somewhere, I suppose?"

"He meant to dine at a restaurant. There are a good many dining-places in Grandchester; he could take his choice among them."

After this witness had been examined the inquiry was adjourned for a week.

At the close of the proceedings Brockbank, the lawyer, asked if his client might be released on bail, the Vicar of Freshmead being prepared to offer himself as security to any amount, but the coroner replied that the case was of too serious a nature to admit of bail.

So Mr. Caulfield went back to the stony place whence he had come, where the utmost privilege that could be accorded him was the liberty to see his friends at stated hours, and to have his meals supplied from an adjacent hotel.

His spirits would have assuredly gone down to the point of utter despondency, when that gloomy winter evening, when the moldy fly that had conveyed him to the George Hotel carried him back to the jail, had he not been supported and sustained by the indomitable cheerfulness of his friend the vicar.

"What do you think of the case now?" he asked.
"Think!" cried Mr. Leworthy. "Why, that I shall have so much to do in Grandchester ferreting out this mystery of yours during the next six days that I don't know how the deuce my parish work is to get done."
"Won't you employ the police?"
"Of course I shall; but I shall employ myself too. Don't you be downhearted, George. I mean to see you safely through this business, and say I shall do it right away, as they say on the other side of the Atlantic."

George Caulfield's confidence in his father's old friend was unbounded. He had seen in the past how the Vicar of Freshmead could conquer difficulties which the rack of men would have found insurmountable. Mr. Leworthy dined with him as cheerfully as if they had been eating whiff-bait at Greenwich or turtle in Aldergate street under the most exhilarating circumstances; and stimulated by the force of example, George, who had scarcely broken his fast since he left Grandchester, found himself enjoying the tavern steak and ale again.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

CHARLES STUART PARNELL.

The Real Meaning of the Policy of Obstruction.

Many people I find do not merely as a man who, out of some sort of sinister purpose or morbidly selfish desire, were with and harass, obstruct and irritate every English government; the whole house of commons, write Justin McCarthy in "A History of Our Own Times." Mr. Parnell had no feeling of the kind. His was a deliberate purpose, and it was even by the process of exasperation that he tried to fix the attention of the house and the country on the fact that there was an Irish national demand which it would be necessary to listen to and take into consideration. Parnell's creed was that the house of commons was that one great public platform of the country. From that platform he was determined to appeal to and arouse the English people. Therefore, the English people, the house of commons, if you will not listen to our Irish national claim, then we will not allow you to discuss any other question whatever of which we can prevent the discussion. He acted on the inspiration of the woman in the eastern story—of which woman he had probably never heard—who, having tried in vain to get a petition delivered to the sultan, took her place with the little children in the public street, and waited until the sultan rode that way, and then flung herself and babes in front of the horse's hoofs, and declared that she would not move from that spot until he had listened to her appeal, and had trampled her and hers to death. That was the real meaning of the later policy of obstruction. It had its effect.

HE MOVED THEM ON.

But Didn't Arrest Them for Being Drunk and Disorderly.

Their fixed and glassy eyes were sufficient indication of their condition announced to all the world by the placards they wore on their breasts bearing the legend, "I am blind," in large black letters, says the New York Telegram. In the left hand of each was a large tin cup and in their right hands they carried long sticks with which to direct their steps. Their arms were locked together and the sticks were kept busy directing their wandering steps. They lurched around the corner of the Herald building and brought up one on either side of the bulletin board.

From this coign of vantage the two emitted shrieks of hearty, whole-souled merriment from time to time. Blindness

CLIPPERTON ISLAND.

are Reported to Have Took Possession of the Island. Mexico, Dec. 17.—Some time ago it was rumored that a British ship had seized Clipperton Island, the local papers took the matter as a serious agitation over the island. The foreign relations department asked the war department to send an expedition to the island to investigate if the British really had taken possession. Four days ago the Corvette El Democrat, Capt. Teofilo Cortes, left Mazatlan for the island. It proved that the island, which Mexico claims as belonging to her, has been seized by the British, the matter will be taken up diplomatically, for the purpose of recovering the territory. Mexico will formally request the restoration of the island. No one here expects any serious difficulty over the matter, and there is as yet no definite official information in possession of the government regarding the alleged seizure of Clipperton. At the foreign relations department yesterday it was said that the object of the expedition was not warlike, but merely to ascertain the true condition of affairs. The same thing was said at the war department. There is no dispute over the matter. The newspapers, however, are likely to make much of the seizure if it turns out to be a fact. For there is a sentiment among Mexican people that England unjustly acquired Belize, or British Honduras, from this country. The Mexican Herald editorially says: "European nations are looking forward to the time when, by the weakness of the great republic, champion of the Monroe Doctrine, they may proceed under one pretext or another to carve up South and Central America. If the American people allow themselves to be beguiled into unpreparedness for war they will assuredly be caught all unready by vigilant European nations and their sea power, whereupon Latin America will be seized, as a fox does a fat capon." The same paper remarks that Diaz's doctrine, which contemplates the eventual freeing of the new world from every trace of European control, is much broader than the Monroe doctrine, and will become a principle of action of the twentieth century.

POPULIST CAUCUS.

The members of the House of Representatives Adopt Resolutions. Washington, Dec. 17.—A caucus of the Populist members of the house of representatives was held at the National hotel last night. The following resolutions were adopted unanimously, except that referring to the civil service: Resolved, that it is the sense of this caucus that we will resist all efforts to modify the existing civil service laws to enable any party that may be in power to fill the different positions in civil service with partisans. Resolved, that we are opposed to and will resist all efforts to destroy our greenbacks and treasury notes whether by direct legislation or by the subterfuge of refusing to reissue the same except in exchange for gold. Resolved, that we are opposed to any measure of enlarging the powers of national banks; that we oppose the curbing of the power to issue notes designed to have the same functions as money, to any bank, corporation or individual. Resolved, that we favor the early consideration and passage of a joint resolution recognizing the independence of the Cuban republic. Resolved, that we are in favor of the early passage of an equitable voluntary bankruptcy bill.

Courthouse Burned.

Ardmore, I. T., Dec. 17.—About 4 o'clock yesterday morning the large United States courthouse building was discovered in flames, and before the fire department could get a stream playing on the building was past saving and was soon a mass of ruins. The building contained the United States clerk of the court, marshal and commissioner's offices, which were destroyed, together with many important and valuable records and papers. Among the papers destroyed were all those pertaining to probate, civil and assignment cases and expired mortgages.

Virginia Veterans.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 17.—Col. James S. Stubbs, grand commander of the grand camp Confederate Veterans of Virginia, through Adj. Gen. Thomas Elliott, yesterday morning issued a general order calling a meeting of the general order to be held in Lynchburg, Va., January 20 next. The order states that the honor and fidelity of the grand commander have been assailed and his resignation requested as the result of an investigation.

Banks Chartered.

Guthrie, Ok., Dec. 17.—The territorial banking board issued new bank charters yesterday as follows: Exchange bank at Parry, capital stock \$5,000. Directors, F. G. Moore, A. N. Moore, H. A. McCandless, Kay County. Directors, R. W. Smith, S. H. 660. Directors, J. A. Brown, H. Smith, Duval Jackson, J. A. Brown, H. Smith, J. W. Welch. Bank of Cushing, capital stock \$500. Directors, Fred L. Pittman, M. Hough and M. E. Putman.

Dawes Commission.

Atoka, I. T., Dec. 17.—Col. Mike Conlan, chairman of the Republican executive committee for the Indian Territory, returned from Washington yesterday morning. While in the Dawes he and two members of the commission were assured by the commission that the Indian affairs that it was mission of the government this course is to give the United States courts exclusive jurisdiction over the Indians, to allot the land to the members of the five civilized tribes and to take away their autonomy.

Confederate Veterans.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 17.—The second and last day's session of the state confederate reunion was brought to a close yesterday evening. At the morning session the matter of having the state increase the appropriation for the Confederate home at Austin was discussed, and a resolution expressing the demands of the veterans adopted. A letter from Gov. Culberson was read, expressing his regret at not being able to attend the reunion. The principal address of the day was that of Judge J. H. Reagan. After paying tribute to the departed veterans, he said he desired to refer to some great facts. He said it is generally understood that slavery was the main cause of the war, but that was not the case, although it was one of the chief causes of the war. He said the trouble dates far back of the war. It was a case of jealousy on the part of the manufacturing states. He then told of several instances that occurred during the later fifties. He said when President Jackson made the purchase of Louisiana, the New England states objected very strongly, saying that it was giving the agricultural states an unfair advantage over the manufacturing states. He said the New England states then threatened to secede. The same thing took place when the state of Missouri was admitted to the union, and when Texas was admitted. He said prior to the breaking out of the war the various administrations had been severely criticized and condemned when the policy pursued by the government was right, but that no state had threatened to secede except the New England states. Until the south had decided to withdraw from the union, there was never a question raised as to the right of one state to withdraw from the union. When the great northwestern country was settling up, the people of Indiana and Illinois especially asked congress to repeal the law prohibiting slavery in those states, and Gen. Harrison, the foremost man of that section, and afterwards president of the United States, wrote a very able letter to the president, advocating the repeal of that law.

Speaking of slavery, Judge Reagan said the southern states were not responsible for slavery. He stated they were brought here by Dutch traders and sold to the people of the north. There they remained until they were no longer useful, that part of the country engaging very largely in manufacturing, then the slaves were sold to the people of the south, to work their fields, and the money thus realized was spent in building up new machinery, manufactures, and building up the country. Capt. Ferg Kyle of Kyle nominated Major W. B. Sayers of Gonzales as major general to command the Texas division of confederate veterans. The mention of Major Sayers' name evoked great applause. Capt. Kyle said of him: "Although he enlisted as a private when a mere stripling, before the war was over his name was written high on the scroll of fame." Gen. J. M. Pearson, as a representative of the northeastern division, embracing forty counties, seconded the nomination, saying: "I am glad to place before this convention a man who has plucked so many honors on the field of battle." Major J. E. Fitzgerald of San Antonio seconded the nomination as a member of Albert Sydney Johnson camp, in a neat speech. Major Joseph G. Booth of Austin, a member of Terry's Texas Rangers, also took the floor and said he thought there was no one who could fill the position with more credit. Major Fitzgerald then moved that Major Sayers be elected by acclamation, and the motion carried by a rising vote.

NEEDING RAIN.

Stock Water Getting Scarce Around Abilene. Abilene, Tex., Dec. 17.—T. J. Smith Wednesday received seven carloads of cattle from Orange and Kirbyville, Texas. They will be driven to his ranch on Double Mountain river, in Stonewall county. Stock water has become the crying necessity in this part of the country. In many places stock are showing the effects of a scarcity of it. In some instances they have to travel long distances between grass and water, and in such cases they can not remain long in good condition for the winter. The drought has been long and severe.

John Morgan Hanged.

Ripley, W. Va., Dec. 17.—John Morgan was hanged here yesterday afternoon. The drop fell without any unusual incidents except that Morgan broke down during the forenoon and spent the time crying. He recovered himself so as to go on the scaffold with composure. The crime for which John Morgan, also known as John Raines, was hanged was one of the most remarkable in the history of the state and attracted wide attention, not only on account of the unusual brutality of the murder, but from the fact that there was no apparent motive for the deed, the family he murdered, that of Mrs. Edward Green, having been his benefactor since childhood.

Alphonse Daudet died at Paris, France, the other night.

Boiler Explosion.

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 17.—A boiler explosion occurred at the mill owned by Stobaugh & Jennings, at Choctaw, Van Buren county, resulting in the loss of two lives, the scalding of two other persons and the damaging of considerable property. The water gauges became clogged and the boiler ran dry. Fireman Presley turned on the pumps and an explosion followed. The 30-foot boiler was torn to pieces and wheels, belting pipes and iron rods filled the air.

A Considerable Admission.

"Of course, all my aunts say that the baby looks like me," said the blushing young man. "What does your wife say to that?" asked the elder man. "Well, she admits that perhaps I may resemble the baby a little."

Abie to Sting.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat: Uncle Sam's fleet of five torpedoes is called a "mosquito squadron," and if it lives up to its name, the discomfort of the enemy will be all that could be desired.

Found Dead.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 17.—Emanuel Moke, a well known dry goods merchant of this city, was found dead in bed at his home yesterday morning. In his right hand was clasped a 45-caliber revolver, which he had used to send a bullet through his head. He was prominent in Jewish circles and was formerly wealthy. He has had business reverses of late and a distress warrant was issued against his stock of goods. This business trouble led to his shooting himself.

BOARD OF TRADE.

The National Association Convened in Annual Session. Washington, Dec. 15.—The National Board of Trade met here yesterday for its twenty-eighth annual session, ex-Gov. Stanford of St. Louis presiding in the absence of Mr. Frederick Fraley of Philadelphia, who has been president of the board since its organization in 1868. The executive committee made its annual report, which was adopted without a dissenting vote. On the subject of currency, the report says: "Probably there is no subject which is still of such importance as that of the currency. While the great uprising in favor of sound money in 1896 was not without its good effect, there is still much to be desired in the way of a permanent prosperity, which condition is mainly due to the fact that the future of our monetary system is still largely in doubt. Over-confidence as to the continued influence for good of the defeat of free silver at the last election is a serious mistake. While hard times are undoubtedly a stimulus to unsound systems of finance, it is a mistake to suppose that the numerous friends of such systems will be entirely satisfied by a return of prosperity. Hard times, which did not originate the silver question, have undoubtedly been used by interested parties to instill false ideas into the minds of many of our people, particularly our working men and farmers, which have become a part of their political belief. A spirit of unrest and dissatisfaction still exists among such classes, and there is no evidence that among such a great conversion from the free silver doctrine has taken place anywhere in the country. In New York or Nebraska the opinions of the dissatisfied are now practically the same as before the election. The form may have changed. As free silver was but a form and natural sequence of the greenback heresy, so now the tendency is to become a fiat money fallacy, rather than a silver fallacy; but in whatsoever form it shows itself it has become a general theory of public policy and a conspicuous tenet in the doctrine of a national political party. To such the free silver or fiat money question is the principal and overshadowing issue, and all considerations of currency reform will be made subservient thereto. The only way to meet it is by persistent education, for which some of the sound money organizations have been continued and a national one formed, though without very much popular interest or support, and by the adoption of a sound financial policy, including not only coinage, but banking and currency. While our present system exists, there is the ever impending danger of a repetition of our late financial difficulties, when the country would be at the mercy of those who do not have its best interests at heart. In the absence of careful attention in the meantime—unless by some very unexpected contingency we shall have an unprecedented degree of national prosperity at the time of the next general and presidential elections—we may expect to see the fiat money issue the issue of the campaign."

IMPOSING CEREMONIES.

The President's Mother is Laid to Rest at Canton, O. Canton, O., Dec. 15.—Although it rained almost incessantly all day yesterday, the crowd attending the funeral of Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley was numbered by thousands. The First Methodist Episcopal church, doubled in capacity by throwing open the Sunday school rooms and gallery, was filled to overflowing long before the beginning of the service. The great rostrum of the church was a bank of flowers. After the simple ceremony, thousands after thousands passed through the church, each stopping an instant at the altar to take a last look at the remains. With the president in the first pew was his sister, Miss Helen, and his brother, Abner, with their sister, Mrs. Duncan, of Cleveland. Immediately back of them was the aged sister of the departed, Mrs. Osborn of Youngstown, surrounded by grandchildren and other near relatives. Back of these were members of the cabinet, the Washington visitors; Congressman Taylor, representing this district; Hon. Whitelaw Reid of New York; H. H. Kohlsaat of Chicago, and many other intimate friends of the family from various points. When the cortege reached the cemetery, the burial ground of the McKinley family was surrounded by an immense crowd, who seemed to give no heed to the inclement weather. A canvas canopy had been erected near the open grave for the shelter of the family and those assisting in the last sad rites. The family lot was literally covered with the numerous floral offerings sent by sympathizing friends from all over the country.

The annual meeting of the National Berkshire Record association is in session at Louisville, Ky.

Lutgers on Trial.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 15.—After two weeks spent in securing a jury, the second trial of Adolph L. Lutgers, the burly sausage manufacturer, accused of murdering his wife, Louise, was commenced before Judge Gary yesterday. The courtroom was crowded when the case was called. Every available seat was taken. The prosecution, as in the former trial, was represented by State's Attorney Deen and Assistant State's Attorney McEwen.

Wages Reduced.

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 15.—Notice of the proposed reduction of wages posted yesterday afternoon that the reduction will begin Jan. 3, 1898, the details to be given out later. The secretary of the manufacturers' committee announced that the committee voted to inaugurate a general reduction of wages in all departments on the same basis. The price for weaving a cut of 25-inch 6x64 print cloth will be reduced from 18 to 16 cents.

Washington News.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The senate was in session just fifteen minutes yesterday, adjournment being taken until today out of respect to President McKinley, who is in attendance upon the funeral of his mother. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hoar of Massachusetts. "All senators," he said, "are aware of the great calamity that has overtaken the chief magistrate of the nation. He is in attendance upon the funeral of his mother. Out of respect to him and as an expression of sympathy for him in his affliction, I move that the senate do now adjourn."

No business beyond the introduction of bills and resolutions was transacted. Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. Klye of South Dakota, to change the immigration laws of the United States. He gave notice that at the proper time he would offer the bill as a substitute for that which is now pending before the senate. "In only one feature," said Mr. Klye, "does my bill differ materially from the measure now before the senate. My bill provides that all immigrants shall have their test of education made by the United States consuls at the points nearest to their homes. It is a serious hardship for these people to cross the ocean with the prospect staring them in the face of falling in the test at the port of a foreign country. His feeling of stage fright doubtless so seriously affects many of them that they are unable to do themselves justice in reading the prescribed sections of the constitution of the United States. The measure I have offered is to remedy what I regard as a defect in the measure under consideration."

At 12:15 p. m. the senate adjourned.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The house yesterday after a session of about two hours adjourned out of sympathy for the president, whose mother was buried at Canton yesterday evening. The time of the session was devoted to the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. It was decided to postpone the consideration of the item providing for the maintenance of the civil service commission until after other features of the bill had been concluded. It was apparent from the remarks made that the entire subject will be exhaustively debated. In the house on motion of Mr. Lawrence of Massachusetts January 8, was set aside for paying tribute to the memory of the late Representative Wright, his predecessor. Then, without further preliminary business the house went into committee of the whole and proceeded to the consideration of the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill. Mr. Bingham (Rep.) of Pennsylvania in charge of the measure, explained its provisions in detail. Mr. Bingham said he would offer an amendment to reduce the clerical force in the pension office by ninety-six clerks, in voting a reduction of \$115,000 salaries.

Mr. Bingham did not discuss the appropriations providing for the maintenance of the commission, but stated that the widest latitude would be allowed for debate even if it should run over the holiday recess. He asked, however, that the provision of the bill relating to the civil service and the debate thereon should go over until after the consideration of the other features of the bill were concluded. Mr. Grosvener (Rep.) of Ohio, under whose direction the fight on the civil service law is being made, expressed the opinion that the bill should not be passed to a final vote until after the holidays.

Fine Hotel to be Built.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 15.—It is announced that St. Louis will soon have a new hotel that will cost \$2,000,000, and it is said several Chicagoans and a well known hotel man of Indianapolis will furnish the necessary capital. The location selected for the new hostelry is at the corner of Olive and Twelfth streets, where an option has been secured on the property and a company formed. The hotel is to be the most modern structure of the kind west of the Mississippi river, and the company hopes to be able to close all contracts and commence construction next season.

Mrs. Margaret Hogan was found dead in the back end of her store at Mobile, Ala., the other morning.

Same Thing.

Bond—"Don't you realize that marriage broadens a man?" Benedict—"Oh, yes; I suppose it can be put that way. But 'fattens' is the word I've always used."—Puck.

The Durrant Case.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 15.—The Examiner says the police and the people of Emanuel Baptist church believe that the life of Rev. J. George Gibson, Durrant's former pastor, is in danger. The police have warned the reverend gentleman to protect himself against the possibility of harm. The warning has been heeded, and Dr. Gibson is protected night and day. One of the members of his congregation has volunteered his services as a bodyguard, and the police will detail an officer to attend every public service at Emanuel church.

Cotton Growers Convene.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 15.—When the convention of the Southern Cotton Growers met in the ballroom of the Kimball house at noon yesterday, nearly three hundred delegates answered to the roll call. They represented the foremost planters of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Texas and other southern states. The meeting was called to order by Mr. J. C. Wilborn, the president of the South Carolina association. The first business taken up by the convention was the election of temporary officers.

WORK OF THE WIND.

Oil Derrick Wrecked, Out Buildings and Fences Blown Down at Corsicana. Corsicana, Tex., Dec. 16.—Yesterday there was blowing a hard south wind that, at times, approximated a cyclone. Blinding volumes of sand were whirled through the streets, making it at times almost impossible for people to remain outside. Not only sand, but small gravel, was taken up by the wind and whirled with great force in people's faces, stinging like shot. In the oil fields the crash of falling derricks could be heard, as one after another gave way under the strong pressure of the wind. The first to go down was the derrick at the Lang well, No. 2, which was completely wrecked. No other damage than to the derrick was done. The next to go down was the derrick at the "Possum" well, on the Boitz place, just north of the Lang well. This was also a complete wreck. The next that succumbed to the wind was the Pace & Tolliver derrick, which, in falling, barely missed reaching a farmhouse that was occupied by a family. The pipe in this well was wrenched in twain by the falling derrick, and the oil spouted out in a big stream. The last derrick to go down was at the Red Oliver well, which, in falling, struck the roof of the oil tank house and crushed it in like an egg shell, but the sides were held up by the full oil tank. Besides the derricks, quite a number of out buildings were blown down, but no person in the city, so far as heard from, was injured. Property damage done by wind will probably be \$250 to \$500.

North Texas Medical Association.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 16.—The physicians of north Texas were in possession of Dallas yesterday and the several sessions of the North Texas Medical association were largely attended. A number of very interesting papers were read and officers to serve for the ensuing year were elected. Last night an elegant reception was tendered the visitors at the Oriental hotel by the local physicians, which was largely attended and was a most flattering social success. To-day the North Texas Medical association will wind up the business and adjourn. Fort Worth was selected as the next place of meeting. The following officers for the ensuing year were elected: President, Dr. R. D. Potts of Bonham; vice president, Dr. H. O. Masters of Rock Hill; secretary, Dr. R. F. Miller of Sherman; treasurer, Dr. S. F. King of Sherman. Delegates to the American Medical association, Inge of Denton, Gilcrease of Gainesville, Bacon Saunders of Fort Worth, Markham of Denton, and R. H. Chilton of Dallas. Delegates to the State Medical association, Drs. Smoot of Dallas, Walker of Paris, Bradford of Honey Grove, Irwin of McKinney, and Fleming of Mount Vernon. New members of judicial council, Drs. Shelmore of Dallas, Pennington of Greenville.

Wool Growers Meet.

San Angelo, Tex., Dec. 16.—The State Wool Growers' association convened here yesterday evening. C. G. Burbank, president; George Richardson, secretary; Albert Turner, O. T. Ward Bragton, Thomas McCall, H. H. Sheard, H. Knusenberger, John Kennedy, James Mitchell and F. Beck were present. In a short address President Burbank congratulated the wool growers on the improved condition of the industry and urged the organization of sheepmen in order that they might secure their rights. It was decided to reorganize the association with constitution and by-laws. On motion, Messrs. Mitchell, Knusenberger, Turner, McCall and Richardson were appointed a committee on constitution and by-laws.

An Expert Visits Corsicana.

Corsicana, Tex., Dec. 16.—Col. William Leaky, an expert oil man from Oil City, Pa., who has been in the city for several months quietly taking notes in the oil fields, left last night for Oil City. Just what Col. Leaky's mission here has been never made public. He never divulged his connections or his intentions. All that was generally known of him was that he gave all his time for several months to watching the work of development and was particularly interested in the output of the wells. He was said by some to be connected with the Standard Oil company, but so far as known he never admitted that he was.

A Buck With a Madstone.

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 16.—Alpine has just had the sensation of a life-time in the shooting of a pure white buck, in whose stomach was found a large madstone. The skin is being stuffed for the Smithsonian institute, Washington.

Forest Fires.

Gatesville, Tex., Dec. 16.—So far this week has been fearful for destruction by fire in the county. The woods are on fire in the western part and the flames have been raging since Sunday evening, doing untold damage to the county. Several farmers have lost everything. The high winds made the fire uncontrollable. Hundreds of men are engaged combatting the flames. The fire was still raging yesterday evening.

Charged With Robbery.

Bonham, Tex., Dec. 16.—Yesterday morning Jim Owens, Francis Owens and Charlie Homeycutt were jailed by Sheriff Riddling, charged with the robbery of Dutch True last night at the rear of a saloon in this city. True gave the alarm at the time and Night Watchman John Locke pursued parties seen running away from the vicinity, but they escaped in the darkness. True states that he was relieved of \$63.

INSANE FROM A RESOLVE.

St. Louis Woman Who Has Only Spoken One Word in Twenty Years. Though filled with the command of speech, Miss Kate Schieber, an inmate of the observation ward of the city hospital, St. Louis, has only uttered one word in twenty years. When she was 27 years old, working as a seamstress, Kate made a vow to her mother that she would never speak again. With the exception of once saying "No" to a question, she has most religiously kept her word, and at 47 is incurably insane. At the city hospital she is regarded as a mystery and the queerest insane woman that ever entered the institution. She refuses to eat or drink and can be picked up and carried around without the slightest remonstrance from her. If a nurse lays her on the bed she remains there motionless. If she is fixed in a corner of the ward she remains a motionless fixture. She acts like an automaton. She moves only when somebody moves her. She seems afraid of a man, she tries to hide from him and seeks the most secluded corner in trying to avoid him. One morning she placed her hand on a hot register. It must have hurt her, for there was a red mark on her hand. But she said not a word, made no sound, and any amount of begging could not induce her to utter a syllable. The other patients regard her with wonder, not unmixed with fear, and even the nurse is afraid that she will break into some violent act before long. She is becoming weaker, however, because she will accept no nourishment.

The Three-Volued Novel.

Some time ago the burning question among publishers in London was as to the three-volume novel: Should it continue to exist, or should it be extinguished to make room for the two-volume book at a quarter of the price? That question having been settled against the three-volume novel, now comes a new one, concerning current pages for books. The people who write against the uncut form are usually busy newspaper men, who have no time to wield the paper knife. One of these says: "From the standpoint of political economy the present old-fashioned system is utterly wrong and particularly so in novels, which are meant to be read by busy people and not treasured by bibliomaniacs. A few weeks ago Mr. Heinemann published a novel, of which over 100,000 copies are now in circulation. The book was sent out with its leaves uncut. It takes at least a quarter of an hour for each new reader to cut those leaves. This means that no fewer than 25,000 precious hours of the public time have been necessarily been occupied in the profitless work of cutting the pages of that one book alone. The bookbinder's audacity would do the work in a fifth part of that time. And the bookbinder is earning his living."

A Rainfall of Seeds.

Some days ago the province of Macerata, in Italy, was the scene of an extraordinary phenomenon. Half an hour before sunset an immense number of small blood-colored clouds covered the sky. About an hour later a cyclone storm burst, and immediately the air became filled with myriads of small seeds. The seeds fell over town and country, covering the ground to a depth of about half an inch. The next day the whole of the scientists of Macerata were abroad in order to find some explanation. Prof. Cardinali, a celebrated Italian naturalist, stated that the seeds were of the genus cereis, commonly called Judas tree, and that they belonged to an order of leguminosae found only in central Africa or the Antilles. It was found, upon examination, that a great number of the seeds were actually in the first stage of germination.—The Golden Penny.

Not in Her Set.

A lady much interested in good works was bewailing the loss of a somewhat ill-bred but extremely wealthy neighbor, who had been very liberal in his help to her country charities. "Mr. X. is dead," said she; "he was so good and kind and helpful to me in all sorts of ways. He was so virtuous dear fellow, we could not know him in London; but we shall meet in heaven."—Pearson's Weekly (London).

Roller skates were in vogue for many years.

Roller skates were in vogue for many years. In 1796, a man named James Plimsoll, an Englishman, was the first to use roller skates. He was a member of the House of Commons and was known for his work on the Tonnage Act. He invented roller skates to help him with his work. The roller skates were made of wood and had four wheels. They were used for recreation and for work. The roller skates were popular in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were used by men, women and children. The roller skates were made of wood and had four wheels. They were used for recreation and for work. The roller skates were popular in the 18th and 19th centuries. They were used by men, women and children.

OLE. printer. own on application. nvariably cash in. Haskell, Texas. 25, 1897.

The bells, the bells, the bells. How merrily they ring. As if they felt the joy they tell. To every living thing. Their silvery tones o'er vale and hill. Are swelling soft and clear. As wave on wave, the tide of sound. Fills the bright atmosphere.

We have the prettiest... Bass Bros. Abilene, Tex. P. S. We are headquarters for new and 2nd hand School Books, with covers. One of the firm spent a month in buying our HOLIDAY goods. SPECIAL PRICES TO DEALERS.

THE HASKELL... HASKELL... A General Banking Business Transacted. Promptly Remitted. Exchanged on Cities of the United States. DIRECTORS—M. S. Pierson, A. C. Ster, J. L. Jones, Lee T. J. Lemmon.

DOTS.

A. Jones arrived Thurs- Xmas with the home Hollis Fields came in yes- om Waco to spend the holi- home. see me with your LOW prices. S. L. ROBERTSON. taxes must or a dded. e Jefferson, after an out two years in Bos- ty, like most others who Haskell county in search of eener pastures and more bountiful harvests, has given it up as a mistake and, with his family returned to Haskell to stay. We are glad to welcome them back again. —Inquiries among stock men indicates that there has been less loss among stock from the late bad weather than we had supposed there would be. No loss or probable loss is reported in native cattle. Imported eastern cattle are considerably drawn, but good weather and grass will bring them out safely. Sheep are in fine condition and no losses probable. Range horses have fared worse from the fact that they have been considered of small value and many of them have been allowed to get in poor condition from lack of water or any attention and quite a number have died. Regardless of the polar atmosphere and the fact that the earth was shrouded in snow, there was a full house out Tuesday night at the elocutionary entertainment given by Mrs. McCollum & Co. The programme was opened with a solo by Mrs. H. & Jones, "Under the Shadow of the Pines," which was rendered with great pathos and effect. To attempt a criticism in detail would trench too heavily upon our space this week, and, perhaps, would be invidious, were we capable of giving the subject proper treatment. Justice it to say that all the recitations were fairly well done and showed the effect of intelligent training, while some of them were so excellent as to exhibit natural talent supplemented by training. Among the best efforts according to our judgment, were those of Misses Minnie Fowler, Ophelia James and Nellie Moody. They exhibited an apparent unconsciousness of the presence of spectators which added greatly to the effect of their recitation. There were several others of nearly equal merit. The rendition of "Jack Frost" by little Levi and Elsie McCollum was extra good for such small children. The duet "The Lillie and the Rose" by Mrs. H. R. Jones and Miss Fannie Hudson was splendid. Mrs. McCollum gave a rendition of "The End of the Honeymoon" in which she exhibited a high order of talent, not only as an elocutionist but a comedian who might win fame on the stage. In her Haskell has a valuable acquisition to its educational and social circles. The entertainment closed with an amusing farce by Messrs Lee Kirby, Henry Alexander and Jerold Hills.

—Mr. J. A. King and family are more wanderers from our county who have returned to it after an absence of a year in the I. T. They have been back two or three weeks, but we missed the item. Mr. King is a good citizen and we are glad to see him back again. —Miss Dollie Massie, who has become quite a favorite as a teacher in the Haskell public school during the present term, left Thursday to spend the Holidays at her home in Palo Pinto and, rumor has it that her title may be changed before her return. —Jefferson, after an absence of two years in Boston, like most others who have returned to Haskell county in search of better pastures and more bountiful harvests, has given it up as a mistake and, with his family returned to Haskell to stay. We are glad to welcome them back again. —Inquiries among stock men indicates that there has been less loss among stock from the late bad weather than we had supposed there would be. No loss or probable loss is reported in native cattle. Imported eastern cattle are considerably drawn, but good weather and grass will bring them out safely. Sheep are in fine condition and no losses probable. Range horses have fared worse from the fact that they have been considered of small value and many of them have been allowed to get in poor condition from lack of water or any attention and quite a number have died. Regardless of the polar atmosphere and the fact that the earth was shrouded in snow, there was a full house out Tuesday night at the elocutionary entertainment given by Mrs. McCollum & Co. The programme was opened with a solo by Mrs. H. & Jones, "Under the Shadow of the Pines," which was rendered with great pathos and effect. To attempt a criticism in detail would trench too heavily upon our space this week, and, perhaps, would be invidious, were we capable of giving the subject proper treatment. Justice it to say that all the recitations were fairly well done and showed the effect of intelligent training, while some of them were so excellent as to exhibit natural talent supplemented by training. Among the best efforts according to our judgment, were those of Misses Minnie Fowler, Ophelia James and Nellie Moody. They exhibited an apparent unconsciousness of the presence of spectators which added greatly to the effect of their recitation. There were several others of nearly equal merit. The rendition of "Jack Frost" by little Levi and Elsie McCollum was extra good for such small children. The duet "The Lillie and the Rose" by Mrs. H. R. Jones and Miss Fannie Hudson was splendid. Mrs. McCollum gave a rendition of "The End of the Honeymoon" in which she exhibited a high order of talent, not only as an elocutionist but a comedian who might win fame on the stage. In her Haskell has a valuable acquisition to its educational and social circles. The entertainment closed with an amusing farce by Messrs Lee Kirby, Henry Alexander and Jerold Hills.

Secretary S. D. Thompson of the American Percheron Horse Breeders association says that no such activity has been manifested since the Columbian show as that which now characterizes the horse trade, and he thus states the situation: There is a demand now for good horses, and a consequent increase in the prices. Good coach and carriage horses as well as big draft horses are becoming very scarce, and breeders who have hung on through the hard times are now about to reap their reward. It is a fact that good sound draft horses which a year ago could be bought at from \$150 to \$200 a pair are now worth from \$300 to \$600, with few offerings at any price, and the owner of a good, large, stylish coach team can name his own price and get it. The outlook for horse breeders is very bright, and I fully expect to see as high, if not higher, prices paid for good breeding stallions the next five years as were ever paid during the boom times in horse breeding from 1880 to 1893. The great difficulty is that there will not be sufficient numbers in this country, and undoubtedly large importations of French, English and Scotch breeding stallions will be made next season. —Tex. Stock and Farm Journal. AFTER all the republican bluster about what the Dingley tariff bill would do in wiping out the deficiency in our revenues and restoring our finances to a proper equilibrium, it is quite embarrassing to them to find the deficit increased from \$18,000,000 to nearly \$50,000,000. The pesky thing has worked backwards. As political doctors they prescribed a dose of heavy taxation to cure the disease, but instead of disappearing it has grown much worse. Now their leading papers and politicians are advocating a heavier dose of the same medicine to cure the disease that it has aggravated. For instance, the Chicago Tribune is reported as saying that congress should add \$1 a barrel on beer, which would yield the government \$50,000,000. A pound on tea, which on the more than 113,000,000 pounds annually imported would yield \$9,000,000, and on the 777,000,000 pounds of coffee 4 cents a pound, which would yield \$31,000,000. A total of \$73,000,000 to the government from these three items of consumption by the masses. The Tribune says "there would be no 'kick' on the part of the tax-payers—the taxes would be so light the consumer would hardly notice them!" And it proceeds to say that this would wipe out the deficit, no more bonds would have to be issued, the old soldiers' pensions would not have to be cut down, the work on the fortifications and battle-ships could go on, etc. etc. Republican like, never a word about economy, cutting down high salaries, lopping off extra clerical force, scaling down extravagant appropriations for questionable improvements, etc. They might find this a surer remedy than taxation for reducing the deficit. They seem incapable of learning that as high taxation increases the prices of goods it decreases the use or consumption of them and acts as a prohibition to importation, hence reduces the amount of revenue derived by the government from that source, while it at the same time it adds the amount of the tax to the price of the goods and makes them come just so much dearer to the consumer. For instance, if we pay 12 1/2 cts a pound for coffee and 4c tax is charged on every pound brought into the country the importer will add the 4c to the price and we will have to pay 16 1/2 cents a pound for our coffee. —Take your hides and furs to S. Edwards of Seymour, who will pay the highest market prices for them. MAKE MONEY — By Drilling Wells! We have a Ft. Scott well drilling outfit which we are prepared to offer for sale at a bargain. It is complete and in good condition. Write us. Ed. S. Hughes & Co. Abilene, Tex.

HO-HO-HO!! Now Comes The largest stock of Dry Goods and Groceries ever offered to the people of Haskell county at one time in the history of this country, consisting of everything to eat and to wear. The above stock of goods is not to be found on sale now, but have been on sale—some this year some last year and you know how long before that—and this means that we need and want the pay for your share of them. You know how lenient we have been with you. Last year was a hard year and you did not make enough to pay your accounts (many of you) and we did not worry you with a continual stream of duns, but just bore the load ourselves and have carried you another year and, as fortune has smiled on us and our lands have brought forth a good harvest we now ask you to lift the burden from our shoulders by settling your accounts promptly by Dec. 1st to 15th, that we may in turn make ourselves at ease.

Now Don't Say, Alex., carry me another year, for we bore a heavy load under your failures last year and took all the risk for this year, and there may be another year like last year and then will be time to sing the old song and have it heard. Now Come, Friends and Customers and lets settle up and make a new start. Don't forget to call on you in person, for be sure we will see you after the given date if you don't see us before. Yours in the true bonds of friendship, F. G. ALEXANDER & CO. Per Alex.

TOYS — AND — FANCY GOODS In Great Variety. I feel justified in saying to the public that never before in the history of the town was there so large, so varied and so choice a selection of toys and holiday goods shown in Haskell as is now displayed at my store. I have something to please the fancy and suit the purse of every one. Toys of every kind and description from 5 cents up. Dolls of all sorts and sizes at any price you want. Games of various kinds. And among the fancy goods such articles as, Toilet Mirrors, Dressing Cases, Parlor Lamps, Handsome Vases, Fine Medallions, Plush Albums, Writing Desks, Paper Weights, Ink Stands, etc. and a choice line of Perfumeries and toilet articles. These goods are for sale, and the prices will be such as to convince you of the fact and of the further fact that it won't pay you to go elsewhere to buy. Come and see and you will be convinced. A. P. MCLEMORE.

J. W. BELL, Manufacturer & Dealer in SADDLES and HARNESS. Full Stock, Work to Order. Repairing done neatly and substantially. Prices reasonable and satisfaction with goods and work guaranteed. Your Trade is Solicited.

IT IS TIME To Think of BUYING A STOVE. We have just received a Car Load. POPULAR BRIDGE BEACH & CO'S COOKING AND HEATING STOVES. These stoves are first class in every particular and will be sold at prices that will beat going to the railroad for them. Call and see them. McCollum & Wilbourn Co.

FURNITURE Largest Stock West of Fort Worth! Two Car Loads Just In From Factory. PICTURE MOULDING, WALL PAPER, WINDOW SHADES. COFFINS AND ALL UNDERTAKER'S GOODS. EMBALMING A SPECIALTY. I always keep my stock full, and I won't be undersold. Call on me. T. H. C. PEERY, SEYMOUR. REEDY'S RESTAURANT. MEALS at all HOURS. FRESH OYSTERS SERVED TO ORDER. Also keeps fresh Fruits, Nuts, Candies, Cider, Cigars and Tobacco. A SHARE OF YOUR PATRONAGE SOLICITED. NEXT DOOR TO BELL'S SADDLE SHOP. W. M. REEDY.

Unparalleled! Perfect! Grand! SUCCESS Were the expressions heard on all sides about the Blue Ribbon Winner. In the Plow Contest at the Abilene Round-Up and Fair. TONGUELESS, but yet it talks in the best is the cheapest at a higher price. Success Sulk. AND as che as the What more could seeds like Success confer with ED S. H. Abilene. Notice of Stockholders' Meeting. Notice is hereby given to the regular annual meeting of the holders of the Haskell National Bank will be held on Tuesday, January 11th, 1898, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 4 p. m., at the said bank in the town of Haskell, Texas, for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the year and for transacting such business as may properly come before such meeting. J. L. Haskell, Tex. Dec. 7, 1897.

REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE HASKELL NATIONAL BANK AT HASKELL, IN THE STATE OF TEXAS, AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS DEC. 15, 1897.

RESOURCES.	
Loans and discounts	\$58,607.45
Overdrafts, secured and unsecured	1,429.00
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	14,500.00
Premium on U. S. Bonds	1,750.00
Banking-house, furniture and fixtures	16,000.00
Other real estate and mortgages owned	5,151.10
Due from National Banks (not reserve agents)	6,240.63
Due from approved reserve agents	10,706.78
Checks and other cash items	633.65
Fractional paper currency, bank notes and coins	6.02
Legal Money Reserve in Bank, viz:	
Specie	\$,372.00
Legal-tender notes	3,985.00
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer, 5 per cent of circulation	662.50
TOTAL	\$121,045.16
LIABILITIES.	
Capital Stock paid in	50,000.00
Surplus fund	10,000.00
Undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid	15,000.04
National Bank notes outstanding	11,350.00
Due to other National Banks	808.28
Due to state Banks and Bankers	—
Individual Deposits subject to check	33,887.84
TOTAL	\$121,045.16

State of Texas, County of Haskell, ss: I, J. L. Jones, Cashier of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. J. L. Jones, Cashier. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22nd day of Dec, 1897. Oscar Martin, L. S. J. Lemmon, Notary Public, Haskell County, Texas. T. J. Lemmon, A. C. Foster, Directors. Lee Pierson.