A Newspaper Article That Led to Terrible Bloodshed in Florida.

An old resident told a sojourner in Florida the following story of some famous and sanguinary duels that occurred there years ago: "In the Seminole red there years ago: red there years ago: "In the Seminole war," said Mr. Zabran, evidently ambling down a well worn groove of conversation, "Governor Call, of this State, commanded a crack regiment. One morning he received a note announcing that his wife was quite ill. He at once repaired to her bedside. During his absence a battle was fought. Shortly afterward an article appeared in the Chronicle and Scatinel, of Augusta, insinuating that Governor Call had purposely absented himself from the battle. The paper containing this cruel article reached the camp and was at once the subject of comment. Lieutenant Augustus Alston determined, in the absence of his colonel, to protect his honor. mounted a horse and plunged through the woods for Augusta. Reaching that city he made his way to the Chronicle office and demanded to know the author of the offensive article. It turned out that it was Governor Reed, of Florida, for a long time a bitter political enemy of Call's. Lieutenant Alston at once sent him a peremptory challenge. Governor Reed replied that he would be happy to accommodate Lieutenant Alston with satisfaction as soon as he had concluded an affair with Lieutenant Williams, of Call's staff, who had already favored him with a note upon the same subject. Alston thereupon had to content his soul in patience until the afwith Williams was over. He did not have to wait long. A meeting was soon arranged between Reed and Williams, the conditions of which were that they were to fight with bowie knives, until one or the other should be cut down. At the meeting the men came upon the ground, stripped to their shirts. They advanced until they met each other. They then clasped their left hands together in a firm and dead game grasp, standing toe to toe. The keen and shining knives were then placed in their right hands. At a signal they dropped perpendicularly along their legs. At the next word they were raised into the air, and then the terrible fencing began. It was a brief, strenuous struggle. The long knives cut and gashed and wheezed through the flesh of the combatants and clashed and sparkled against each other, now buried in vital tissue and now whipped out with a dim, bluesh moisture veiling the blades, until at length Lieutenant Williams fell, hacked almost to pieces. Governor Reed escaped without disabling injury.

"He then turned his attention to Lieu-

tenant Alston. Being the challenged party, he had the choice of weapons. He selected a murderous weapon, now happily obsolete, but then of common use and known as a yagar. It was a broad-mouthed, funnel-shaped, smooth bore gun that carried a handful of shot and was warranted to hit everything in the neighborhood of its aim. The duel was a most unfortunate one in its direct and remote results. Captain Kenon was Lieutentant Alston's second. The principals were posted with their backs to each other. As the word 'wheel' was called it is claimed that Alston slipped and stumbled. The command. Fire-one-two-three !" followed almost immediately, and before he could they absorb the unhealthiness of damprecover his gun went off into the air. Governor Reed took cool aim, fired promptly at the word, and Lieutenant Alston dropped dead. Thus two gallant young fellows had already fallen in defence of the honor of an absent com- wealthier," because here there are few rade. But the cruel feud was hardly families who can afford to maintain a living in Louisiana, heard of his brother's the swamp dampness. nd became impressed with th idea that he had not been fairly killed, He claimed that Governor Reed should have withheld his fire when he saw his brother's gun spring aimless toward the sky. Indeed, it is said that a sister of Lieutenant Alston had the lead taken from her brother's body and a new bullet molded, which she sent to Colonel Willis Alston and demanded that he should come and avenge their brother's death. Colonel Alston came as fast as possible to this hotel. Governor Brown met him as he rode up to the piazza and at once divined his purpose. 'You have at once divined his purpose. come here to challenge Reed?' he asked. Colonel Alston assented. Governor Brown then begged him to be very deliberate and cool and quiet about it. On the very night he got here he was sitting near the fireplace yonder, with a large cloak around him, and his head bowed upon his hand. He had been sitting there only a few moments when some one brushed past him rather roughly. Raising his head he discovered that it was Governor Reed, the very man he had traveled so far to challenge to deadly combat. In an instant he was ablaze with excitement, and rising, exclaimed: 'You have murdered my brother, sir, and now do you presume to insult me? Draw and defend yourself, sir.' As quick as thought Reed drew a six-barrelled pistol and fired, tearing away Alston's third finger, just as the latter poured a broadside into him from a horseman's pistol, lodging a ball in his side. The fire was repeated, each man receiving another bullet. Colonel Alston was then out of ammunition, having only two horseman's pistols. Throwing back his long cloak, however, he drew his bowie and closed with his antagonist. In a few strokes Governor Reed was cut to the floor, and his opponent sank in a fainting fit. It was in that melee that the bullet hole was made up there. "The two men were taken to their

beds, and for several weeks were confined to their rooms. Colonel Alston was first to recover. He was much em-bittered by the contest that had taken place, and said that he intended to kill Governor Reed on sight. A few days afterward he met Governor Reed on the street. He went home and loaded a double-barreled shot gun, putting in one of the barrels, it is said, the bullet that his sister had moulded with the a witness who frequently used the ex- trot for days at a time, their necessary lead taken from his brother's dead body. Seeking Reed again, he fired at him on sight, tearing away his shoulder with his first barrel and riddling his heart with the second. This rencontre created the intensest excitement and led to some legal proceeding against Colonel Alston, which, however, did not result in any-thirg. Colonel Alston shortly after this went to Texas. He had been there but short time when he heard that Dr. John McNeil Stewart, a man of prominence in Brazoria, had commented disparagingly upon his affair with Gover-nor Reed. Meeting Dr. Stewart upon the prairie a few days after this report had come to his ears, he handed him a letter containing the offensive language and asked him if he was responsible for Pending the discussion of the matter at issue they fell upon each other with great fury. It appears that Dr. Stewart was armed with a pair of Colt's pistols and Colonel Alston with a bowie knife and shot gun. When found by their friends, Colonel Alston was found lying at the foot of a large tree, with four bullet holes through his body:

| Courier. | Time, if kept in a warm place and water-join in varying chorus, until stopped by the whip-stocks of the drivers. Before daybreak they are awake, and with a further consumption of permican and its tail in the air.—Lafayette (Ind.)

| Courier. | Courier | Courier

Stewart was lying near by, with two loads of buckshot in his heart, stark and stiff. Colonel Alston was so badly wounded that he could only be carried stiff. in a blanket, swung hammockwise be-tween two men. As he was being borne into the town in this manner his friends were met by a company of armed men, who fired 100 shots into the blanket, killing Colonel Alston instantly,'

"Ozias Midwinter" says in a letter from the South to the Cincinnati Commercial, that the dampness of New Orleans upon a wet day impresses one as something phenomenal. You do not know in the North what such dampness It descends from the clouds and arises from the soil simultaneously; it exudes from wood-work; it perspires from stone. It is spectral, mysterious, inexplicable. Strong walls and stout doors can not keep it from entering; windows and doors can not exclude it. You might as well try to lock out a ghost. Bolts of steel and barriers of stone are equally unavailing, and the stone moulders, and the steel is smitten with red leprosy. The chill sweat pouring down from the walls, soakes into plank floors, and the cunning of the paper-hanger is useless here. Carpets become so thoroughly wet with the invisible rain that they utter soughly marshy sounds under the foot. Consequently few houses are carpeted within, and those good folks who insist upon carpets soon learn the folly of putting them down on more than one for two of the upper rooms. Matting is the substitute even in the aristocratic houses-dry crisp, neat matting. Paper-hangers and carpet-layers would starve to death here. If you even lay a few sheets of writing paper upon your table at nightfall you will find them quite limp and rebellious of ink in the morning. Articles of steel must be carefully laid away in air tight drawers. The garments hung upon the wall, the coverings of beds, the wellstretched shirts in the bureau seem as if they had been rained upon; the stair carpets become like wet turf; and a mouldy, musty smell prevades the at-

Fire is the only remedy possible against this invasion of moisture and mildew, and fires are absolutely necessary in all bedrooms almost all through the winter. During the daytime, in winter months, doors and windows are generally left open, except on exceptionally cold or rainy days; the fires are allowed to go out, and the winds are invited to come in and keep things dry. But when night falls, chill mists invade the city, and exhalations of dampness rise from the moist earth. This is the case even in clear weather, and Louisianians would not think of sleeping without a fire in their bedrooms to dry the air and banish the spectre of damp ness. Even in the heat of the summer the night-news are often heavy like

In the North you place open vessels of water upon your heating stoves that the warm air may be kept moist. Here all possible efforts are made to heat the air so that it may hold in suspension as little moisture as possible. For the city sits upon a marsh, and swamps lie about her crescent boundary.

Carpets become an affliction here. Save in the house of the wealthier, where continual fires keep them dry, ness in the wet season. They fill the house with an odor of mustiness that makes one think of bacteria and vibriones, and divers other horrors of Colonel Willis Alston, then good fire fight all the year round with

## The National Pawn-Shops of Italy.

The consul at Florence sends to the department of state, Washington, an interesting sketch of the use and working of the government loan institutions (Monte di Pieta) of Italy. First intro-duced by Bernardo Da Feltri, towards the close of the fifteenth century, for the relief of the indigent it at once achieved

The first establishment started with a capital of \$2,891, which increased through governmental and private bounty to some \$38,000 in 1530. Profit in excess of expenses were divided among the pledgers, or distributed to the city poor. For four centuries, through political and social changes of Italy, institution has prospered and enlarged its work of aiding the poor, but not enriching itself at their expense.

On the 1st of January, 1876, the operations of the Monte Di Pieta, of Florence, were greatly enlarged by the opening of a new edifice, especially and completely adapted for the reception, storage and sale of pledges. It is in charge of two stewards only, responsible under heavy bonds, and appointed for two years. Business is conducted in two sections, each for a term of two years, the first year for the receipt of pledges, and the second for the liquidation of accounts and sale of unredeemed pledges. Each section is in charge of its steward, so that the receiver of the one year becomes the lender the next, and at the close of the second year his storerooms are entirely empty, and his bal-ance sheet prepared for submission to the government, with such accuracy that the deficit for 1876 was but thirty-four france out of the total business of 9,800,-

The institution is of great utility to all classes; even the higher social classes resort to it without hesitancy for relief from temporary embarrassment, but the indigent are most especially benefited, the low charges on their pledges not being enough to defray even working expenses, in marked contrast to the exorbitant profits of unscrupulous private pawnbrokers.

pression, "several minutes:" "Now, Mr. Small," said the judge, "when you think a minute is gone say 'now.' I will say 'now' when I wish you to begin." Mr. Small nodded his entire comprehension of the plan and looked confident of his ability to guess well. "Now," cried the judge, and in a dead silence the court waited. The witness fidgeted about his chair, and, with a wall, stood the suspense as long as he was able, and then cried "Now."
"Just twelve seconds," said the judge, amid a chorus of laughter.

### A Sweet Plant.

Who was the member of the Agassiz Club victimized with a Christmas present of a "Norway Sensitive Plant?"—a little brown thing stuck in an old flower pot—leafless, but promising "sweet perAN ARCTIC MAIL.

How the Mall is Carried in Winter to One Sixth of the Western Continent-The Life of the Sledge Drivers-Thousands of

esque winter dress; none of the usual belongings of the civilized mail service. The boat brigades of the summer carry a mail in addition to their freight; but in the long winters, when the waters are locked up in ice and the plains covered with snow, leaving scarcely a landmark discernible by which the day's course may be steered, other appliances take the place of plank bottoms and sturdy oars-

Every year about the 10th December, when the landscape is clothed in its winter raiment of white, and the rivers and lakes are covered with thick ice, there starts from Fort Garry, bound north, this accumulation of mail matter, known as the Great Nothern Packet. Through its agency communication is had with every post in the territory. The appliances for the carriage of this important packet are snow-shoes and sledges. The latter, generally four in number, are drawn by dogs, of which there are four to each sledge, and in whose trappings considerable taste and ornament are displayed. But though gaudy in appearance and decorated with clinking and shining bits of metal, ribbons, etc., they are, nevertheless, neatly-fitting, simple in design, and perfectly adapted to the purpose for which they are intended. Little bells, ringing clearly, attached to each harness cheer the spirits of men and animals through the long runs of the day. Their drivers, one to each sledge, lightly clad for running alongside their trains, are shod with snow-shoes. Each alternate sledge is loaded with white fish as provisions for the dogs upon the journeyevery animal receiving a single fish at the termination of the day's travel—and

pemmican and tea for the drivers. There is bound upon each of the remaining sledges a pair of stoutly con-structed boxes, measuring about three feet in length by eighteen inches in width and fourteen inches in depth. These wooden mail bags, when properly packed, contain an astonishing amount of printed and written matter. These receptacles being secured upon the sledges, the party sets forth upon its long journey, the dogs running at a reg-ular trot from morning till night, and the drivers accompanying them on foot, at the rate of about forty miles per day. The route taken is generally that followed by the boat brigades in the summer. shortened whenever practicable by crossing points of land jutting out into the , and striking out overland from bend to bend of the rivers. But the ice forms the general roadway, and the length of Lake Winnipeg is traversed to Norway House at its northern extremity. This post constitutes what may be called a general distributing -the entire packet being over hauled and repacked, so as to separate matter going north and west from that going eastward toward Hudson's Bay. Before the institution of mails connect ing points inthe United States with Fort Garry, all excess in the amount of mail matter transmitted through the winter packets was so jealously guarded against additional weight, and not of vital importance to the service, was prohibited, with the single exception of an annual file of the Montreal Gazette, forwarded to the headquarters of each department for general perusal. The fifty-two copies of that periodical circulated over

the vast country from post to post until, worn out by much service and obscured by much patching and pasting in order to hold them together until yet another reader might obtain a perusal, they finished their course in a lonely station, in latitude sixty-seven degrees thirty minutes north, where, I am credibly informed, certain ancient fragments of them are yet to be seen. At this date, however, newspapers, once so rare and highly prized, form the bulk of the contents of the company's inward-bound packet. In fact, many of the officers are regular subscribers to daily journals which reach them from six months to a year after date of publication; so that, with the exception of the events of the year just passed, the dwellers under the shadow of the pole are as well informed as we as to the doings of the great world.

The contents of the outward and in-

ward-bound mails of this sparsely settled territory present striking differences in appearance, which add to the many peculiarities of a peculiar service. The difference lies in the presence in the inward mail of newspapers, periodicals and other printed matter, bearing a gen-erally soiled, postmarked and frayed aspect, contrasting strongly with the pure white envelopes which constitute the sole contents of the outward-bound mail. Occasionally, too, there appears a strangely gotten up parcel of the inner bark of the birch tree doing duty as writing paper. Again, a particularly white and thin parchment will bear news from some isolated friend, who wishes to make his letters memorable in more ways than one. These latter styles of correspondence are, however, but some of the many ways of passing the time in

the interior country, where a great part of the year is passed in idleness.

The runners in charge of the mail packets are generally half-breeds, whose capacity for rapid traveling has been tested. They are not unimportant men The Length of a Minute.

Few persons realize how long a minute is. The New York World relates this of the people. But, with the exception of physical endurance of a steady qualifications are not many. In travel-ing they skirt the shores of the watercourses, selecting camping-places for the night in some sheltered thicket, or under the lee of some projecting bank, to escape the fierce winds which sweep over the level prairies. The snow is scraped away from a space sufficiently large to admit of a huge fire and the fidgeted about his chair, and, with a spreading down of blankets by means great clock-face staring at him from the of a snow-shoe used as a shovel. Dry wood is collected in large quantities, the pemmican and tea served, the sledges turned up to ward off the blasts, and the runners, wrapped in a few blankets, re-tire for the night. The warmth of fire and blankets is augmented by the vital heat of the dogs, occupying the bed with their masters. A regular episode of the night, however, consists in the oldest dog of the train howling a dismal soprano solo, in which the remainder

upon their journeys—withered woods, through which the winds howl and shrick shrilly, and endless level expanses of snow, the glare of whose unsultied whiteness blinds the traveler. The solitude of the vast region is un-Down upon the ice of the Red river of the North, below the walls of Fort Garry, writes a Winnipeg (British America) correspondent of the New York Even-with the songs of the summer voyageurs, with the songs of the summer voyageurs. ing Post, there began a few days since intrudes with its momentary variation a dog-sledge journey which supplies on the shriek of the all-penetrating mail matter to at least one-sixth of the wind, the ripple of the stream, the roar Western continent. There were no of the thunder-toned waterfall, or the swinging coaches, neighing horses, or howl of the wild beasts of the forests huge pile of leathern mail bags to be seen; only the every day spectacle of a few dogs, a few turned-up boards, and half a dozen half breeds in their pictursolitary dog-train-last of many-drags the same packet, now reduced to a tiny bundle, into the enclosure of La Pierre's House, more than one hundred nights have been passed in the great northern forests; more than three thousand miles have been traversed; a score of different dog trains have hauled the packet, sending off branch dog-packets to the right and left. It was mid-winter when it started; it arrives just as the sunshine of m'd-May is beginning to carry a faint whisper of coming spring to the valleys of the Upper Yucon.

### VICTOR EMMANUEL.

Sketch of the Life and Reign of the Dead King of Italy-His Successor.

Vittorio Emmanuele Maria Alberto Eugenio Ferdinando Tommaso, better known as Victor Emmanuel II., king of Italy, was born in . Turin, March 14, 1820, and was the oldest son of Carlo Alberto, of Sardinia and Theresa, daughter of the Grand Duke Ferdinand, of Tuscany. He received his early education from the Jesuits. In 1842, being then Duke of Savoy, he married the Archduchess Adelaide, of Austria, and six years later took the field with his father in the war against his wife's kindred. At the battle of Goito he was wounded, and at Novara won great admiration by his gallantry. The latter battle resulted disastrously to the Italians; and Charles Albert, believing that his son's matrimonial alliance would be of service in treating with the conquering general, abdicated the throne. Victor Emmanuel surrounded himself at the beginning of his reign with able ministers, including Cavour and D'Azeglio, who gave him aid in his diplomatic negotiations with other sovereigns and in quelling the spirit of insurrection that had begun to show itself at home. He began his reign under the most unfavorable auspices, He had to overcome the consequences of a disastrous war with Austria, to subdue faction, and to preserve the constitution, to annul which, it was said Austria attempted to bribe him with the offer of Parma, by which his troops became the comrades of the allied armies in the Crimea. The same year he paid a visit to the British court, and received an enthusiastic reception from the English people. His daughter, the Princess Clothilde, was given in marriage to Prince Napoleon, cousin of the late Emperor of the French. 1859, after a series of sanguinary battles with Austria, in which the Austrians were defeated by the allied French and Sardinian troops, Anstrian power was driven from Lombardy, which state was annexed to the Sardinian crown. He concluded with England a treaty of commerce, and obtained a treaty of

peace from Austria upon comparatively easy terms. In 1855 his monarchy acquired additional consideration through the conven-tion signed with Eugland and France, and other important states of the Italian peninsula voted for their annexation to the rest of Italy which acknowledged the rule of the Sardinian monarch. After the annexation of these provinces to his crown, Victor Emmanuel assumed the title of King of Italy. In 1866, after the "Seven weeks" war, "Venice was added to the Italian dominions, and in 1870 the Papal States were incorporated in his dominions, thus bringing about that unification of Italy. which the Italians had long struggled for, and which we see to-day. In 1871 Victor Emmanuel moved his capital from Florence to Rome, and took up his residence in the Inomial palace. The king's first wife dying in 1855 he afterwards contracted a morganatic

marriage with Rosa Vercellana, whom he made Countess of Miraflore. The reign of Victor Emmanuel was very eventful. He possessed a stubborn, iron will, and was noted for his personal bravery. He was regarded as a man of small mental capacity, however. He had strong friends and equally strong enemies. He leaves two sons and two daughters. His eldest son, Umberto, Prince of Piedmont, is his successor. He was born in 1844, and is consequently thirty-three years of age. He was a major-general in the Italian army, and is regarded as a man of independent mind. It is thought, by persons who know his purposes best, that any modification of his father's policy he may make will be in the anti-clerical interest. He was married April 22, 1868, to his cousin, Princess Margarita, of

Prince Amadeus, Victor Emmanuel's second son, was King of Spain from December, 1870, till February, 1873, and is now living in retirement in Italy. Pia, the second daughter, is the present

Queen of Portugal. Victor Emmanuel's fatal illness assumed a form at first which caused no especial alarm, as he had often suffered similar attacks and rallied speedily. His extreme corpulency made him a victim of many disorders which men of lesser habit escape. It was necessary to bleed him freely at times, and his fondness for hunting and other open air sports were encouraged by his physicians as a necessity of his peculiar constitution.

Like an ill wind, and carnot be mastered too early. What is a trifing attack of sickness to-day, may, if unattended to, become a serious case in a week. Small ailments thould be nipped in the bud before they blossom into full blown maladies. If this advice were attended to, many a heavy bill for medical attendance might be avoided. When the liver is disordered, the stomach foul, the bowels obstructed, or the nerves disturbed, resort should at once be had to that supreme remedy, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, a few doses of which will restore healthy action and put the system in perfect order. It is a wise precaution to keep this incomparable preventive in the house, since it checks with unrivalled promptitude, disorders which breed others far more dangerous, and in their latest developments are themselves often fatal.

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Romer in His Own Land.

Says Comely in his recently issued work, The History of New York State, "The day has rassed when the benefactors of humanity were allowed to live in ign minous poverty—their sacrifices, their labors, unrecompensed. Today, the benefactors of the people—the men who devote their lives and energies to the interests of humanity—there are the men whom the world delights to honor, and whom it rewards with princely fortunes. As an earnest worker for the welfare of his fellow men, Dr. R. V. P erce has won their warmest sympathy and e teem. While seeking to be their servant only, he has become a prince among them. Yet the immense fortune lavished upon kim by a generous people he hoards not, but invosts in the erection and establishment of institutions directly contributive to the public good, the people thus realizing in their liberal patromage, a new meaning of that beautiful Oriental custom of casting bread upon the waters. Noted in both public and private life for his unswerving integri y and all those sterling virtues that ennoble manhood, Dr. P. erceranks high among those few men, whose names the Empire State is justly proud to inscribe upon her roll of honor. Ambitious, yet moved by an ambition strictly amenable to the most discriminating and well-balanced judgment, his future career promises to te one of unparalleded activity and usefolness, ably supplementing the work he has alraady accomplished, by a life at once noble in effort, enviable in its grand results." While Dr. Pierce's genius and energy have won for him so enviable a position on the records of a ration, having been elected Senator by an overwhelming majority, his justly celebrated household remedies have gained for him a yet more desirable place in the hearts of a greatful people. His Go den Medical Discovery and Favorite Prescription have brought health and happiness to ten thousand households.

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Yours, very respectfully,

MARY FRANCIS.

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Very gratefully yours, H. COLGATE.

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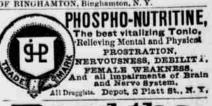
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