

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The Senate was called to order at noon.

Among the bills introduced were the following: By Mr. Egan, a bill providing that the portion of the act approved August 5, 1882, limiting the number of graduates of the Naval Academy to be retained in service each year shall not apply to those classes who had completed the four years' course at the Naval Academy prior to the passage of the act; and authorizing the return to the service of those members of the class of 1881 who have been honorably discharged under the provisions of the said act.

Over \$10,000 was cleared by the fair for the German Home of the Aged at Baltimore. The Mount Hickory Rolling Mills, at Erie, Pa., have been totally destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$300,000. Insurance \$90,000. The Assessment Lists show that the valuation of property in South Carolina is \$150,000,000, a gain during the year of \$5,107,000. The American Cotton Mills, at Gloucester, Mass., have been totally destroyed by fire. Loss estimated at \$1,000,000. Insurance \$280,000.

GENERAL NEWS.

LOANING. B. C. Ex-Minister Nicotera, of Italy, was killed in a duel in Rome yesterday by Signor Lotti, whom he had insulted.

FOURTEEN thousand workmen (14,000) by reason of the strike of colliery boys in the Yorkshire mines.

The damage by the fire in the palace of the Legislative Chamber in Brussels is placed at 10,000,000 francs.

A terrible story of the treatment of prisoners in the St. Petersburg bastion comes from a military correspondent there.

The French Chamber of Deputies yesterday discussed the Tonquin credit bill. It is said in Paris that no more have passed between M. Ferry and the Marquis Turgis since Nov. 30.

Wesley Posey, colored, has been convicted at Birmingham, Alabama, of entrapping a little white girl and the penalty fixed at death.

At Trenton, N. J., a decision was rendered in the Dunmore suit, denying the application for a preliminary injunction to prevent the loss of the New Jersey Central to the Reading, but reserving the right to renew the application at any time.

But three persons were saved from the steamer Manistee, which foundered recently on Lake Superior. Nine persons left the steamer in a lifeboat, and six of them died as they were drowned before they reached land. The crew, captain and ten or eleven passengers went down with the steamer.

A despatch from San Francisco says it is reported that a wheat freight pool composed of Solomon Wangerheim, M. Waterman & Co., and others lost two million to three million dollars by the heavy fall in rates. Claus Spreckles was caught to the extent of three hundred thousand dollars.

The state police are now investigating the doings of a New Bedford firm which it is alleged, manufactures organs in the cheapest manner, and by means of circulars sent broadcast, sells them for fabulous prices to the uninitiated. It is believed that the firm disposed of about twenty-five thousand organs during the past year at a profit of from \$15.00 to \$200.00.

In Chicago John Fleming and Frank L. Loring were convicted for participation in what are known as the "Fund W" frauds. A firm known as Fleming & Merriam advertised to do a commission business on the Chicago Board of Trade, and induced a great many people to invest in "Fund W." It is estimated that they collected more than \$1,000,000 which they intended to be using in speculation on the Board of Trade.

A special from Raleigh, N. C., says: "The town of Williamson, Martin county, in its ashes. The entire business portion of the town was burned last night. The following named merchants were burned out: J. W. Davenport & Co., C. B. Hassell, Geo. W. Williams, S. B. Biggs, J. T. Deans, Wm. Slade, Peal & Gurganus, B. W. Watts & Co., N. S. Godward, J. A. Robinson, A. R. Rogerson, Luke B. Robertson & Co., Peal & Groves, and J. D. Biggs & Co., and the postoffice and telegraph office. The fire was discovered at 15 minutes to 1 o'clock, and originated in the store of J. D. Biggs & Co. There is some insurance, but it is not known how much. The steamer Commerce, of the Baltimore, Roanoke and Norfolk Line, lying at the wharf, was also burned, with 25 bales of cotton on board. The steamer and cargo are both fully insured.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—It is reported from Pekin that the Chinese government refuses to withdraw or modify its claims in regard to Tonquin. Admiral Courbet reports that the French attack on Sontray has not yet begun. The Paris newspaper La Liberté says that England is taking energetic steps to bring about a treaty between France and China, and it believes that peaceful negotiations have made progress.

England and Spain will renew negotiations for a commercial treaty. The fire in Constantinople on Wednesday destroyed 600 houses. The Chamber of Deputies in Brussels has been destroyed by fire.

Sir Henry James, attorney-general, has written a letter taking exception to the manner of conducting O'Donnell's defense. The ex-minister of the interior and the present secretary of the ministry of the interior of Italy quarreled yesterday in the lobby of the Chambers, and the latter sent a challenge to the ex-minister.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—O'Donnell, the slayer of Carey, the informer, was yesterday found guilty of murder, and was sentenced to death. The jury was out only two hours. The reported execution of Bac-Ninh and Sontray is not yet confirmed. Archbishop Cooke, of Dublin, in an address yesterday, spoke hopefully of Ireland's future. Hicks Pasha is said by an eyewitness to have slain by a lance on the third day of the battle. His army had been without water for three days, and suffered terribly. More trouble is apprehended in Newry, Ireland. The Nationalists were to have had a torchlight procession last night, but in view of a threatened riot, the procession was forbidden.

TOPICS OF THE DAY.

Mexico's debt is \$117,000,000, of which sum Englishmen hold about \$85,000,000. The rest is held in New York. The republic's annual revenue is about \$20,000,000, mainly from the stamp tax and tariff duties.

Speaking of the beneficial effects upon consumptives attributed to spruce forests, a writer in a Providence paper predicts that the day will come when pine and spruce pillows will be as frequent household appointments in New England as the quinquina mat has long been in Western States.

More than fifty patents for the making of ammonia have been taken out within the last two years in England, America, Belgium, France, Austria, and Germany. Many of the schemes have been patented in all the countries at once. The patents apply to gas works, oil works, blast furnaces, alkali works and sewage works. Ammonia seems to share with electricity the present attention of the patentees.

Unlike the other Western states, Colorado is not only a shipper of agricultural products, but is actually compelled to rely on its neighboring states for its supply. Wheat, Laramie, and Boulder are about the only agricultural counties, but it is hoped that, with the system of irrigation which has been inaugurated, farming will be made more profitable and the state at least self-sustaining in this respect.

The immense wealth which Russia possesses in turf beds is but little appreciated. Its exploitation is only developed in a few provinces, and by some of the railway companies turf is used as a combustible. Considering, however, that beds of turf exist in Russia covering 70,000 square miles, which would furnish sufficient material to provide all Russia with light for 10,000 years, this seems indeed to be hiding their light under a bushel.

The new sword of State recently completed for his royal nibs, the King of Siam, is double-edged, spear-shaped and fifteen inches long. Toward the hilt it is inlaid with gold of varying tints, wrought in different devices, the figure of Buddha being prominent on each side. The handle, which has no cross-guard, is seven inches in length, and consists of enameled wood studded with diamonds, while the sheath is one entire piece of wrought gold, set with precious stones.

Cracked earthenware should never be used for domestic purposes. It is a safe rule in good housekeeping to break any fractured stoneware to pieces and render them quite unfit for any employment as utensils. In a paper read before the Academy of Sciences, Paris, M. E. Peyrusson demonstrated very clearly how the germs of cholera, typhoid fever and similar diseases may be preserved and communicated by even the slightest crack or fissure, which may be caused by very trifling accidents to crockery and faience.

Sir James Paget, one of the most eminent of British surgeons, recently addressed the workmen of the college, London, on the subject of recreation. He says that recreation does not consist, as many persons wrongly imagine, in idleness, but rather in diversion, and in the employment of different sets of mental faculties from those which are used in the ordinary business of life. Sir James Paget analyzed true recreation as consisting to a greater or less degree of the elements of uncertainty, wonder and the exercise of unwanted or unusual skill.

In his recently published book on "Farm Fences," Professor Scott estimates that five dollars is invested in fences for every acre of inclosed land in Great Britain and Ireland, and that the annual maintenance of fences costs about seventy-five cents an acre. The total capital thus invested in the United Kingdom must be, at this rate, nearly \$250,000,000, and the annual output about \$32,000,000. Professor Scott believes that a great deal of fencing might be dispensed with to the positive advantage of agriculture, and that the general introduction of wire instead of wood would effect a great additional saving.

Standard of Education. According to Ruskin, an educated man ought to know these things: First, where he is—that is to say, what sort of a world he has got into; how large it is, what kind of creatures live in it, and how; what it is made of, and what may be made of it. Secondly, where he is going—that is to say, what chances or reports there are of any other world being there; what seems to be the nature of that other world. Thirdly, what he had best do under the circumstances—that is to say, what kind of faculties he possesses; what are the present state and wants of mankind; what is his place in society; and what are the readiest means in his power of attaining happiness and diffusing it. The man who knows these things, and who has his will so subdued in the learning of them that he is ready to do what he knows he ought, is an educated man; and the man who knows them but is uneducated, though he could talk all the tongues of Babel.

CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

The custom is of very ancient observance. Its birthplace is Egypt. The tree there used was the palm, and the ceremony was in full force long before the days of Antony and Cleopatra. The palm puts forth a fresh shoot every month. In the time of the winter solstice, when parties were given in ancient Miletus, a spray of this tree, with twelve shoots, was suspended, to say what the completion of another year. The custom passed into Italy, where the tree was employed for the purpose of celebration and its pyramidal tips were decorated with burning candles in honor of Saturn. This festival, the Saturnalia, was observed at the winter solstice, from the 17th to the 21st of December. The Sigharia days for interchanging presents of figures in wax, like those on the Christmas trees, followed, and finally the Juvencalia, when men became boys with boys, maidens turned children once again, and young and old indulged in the solemn romps with which the festival closed. That the Egyptian cross passed into Germany may be seen in the pyramids which sometimes there are substituted for the tree. But the antique Northern mythology has supplied most of the observances. The Yule Fest was the midwinter "Wheel Feast," and the wheel represented the circling years, which end but to begin again.

It wasn't a pretty box all trimmed with paper-lace and embossed pictures and filled with bon-bons. It was made of wood, and once upon a time, it came to Mr. Daley's store full of soap. It was under Mr. Daley's counter that very afternoon before Christmas, when Dakie Lane came to buy ten cents worth of raisins and a pound of sugar and a pound of crackers and a very little spice. "Going to have a pudding?" asked Mr. Daley's boy, weighing out the sugar. "Yes," said Dakie. "And I want a stick of candy, too, if you please, to put in the baby's stocking. There's a cent."

It was a very large cent, and it shone as if Dakie had polished it. "That's worth two sticks," said the grocer-boy. "We don't often get such a shiny one. What're you going to have in your stocking?" "Nothing, I guess," said Dakie; "I'm too old. I'm going to be the baby's Santa Claus."

"Oh," said the grocer-boy, wrapping up the two sticks of candy; and Dakie didn't see him pay for one of them out of his own pocket. "That's it."

A lady-customer at the other end of the counter was giving Mr. Daley a good many orders, but she had ears for the conversation on between Dakie and the grocer-boy, and she smiled at Dakie as she went past him out of the store-door.

Perhaps that would have been the end of it, if, on her way home in her carriage a little later, she had not passed Dakie again with one arm full of his small parcels. Just at that minute a big dog bounded up against him, and down went Dakie on the sidewalk; and the paper of sugar burst open, and the raisins were scattered about, and more than half of the crackers went into the gutter.

"Oh dear me!" said Dakie, as he began manfully to repair as much of the mischief as he could.

"No pudding now," thought the lady; and in a minute more she was being driven back to Mr. Daley's store.

There the soap-box was pulled out from under the counter, and into it went all sorts of nice things; raisins and currants and figs and nuts and candies, until it was quite full. Then the cover was nailed on and Mr. Daley's man was hurried away with it to Dakie's home, where it arrived almost as soon as Dakie himself.

"Why, why, who sent it?" cried Dakie. "I don't know," said Mr. Daley's man. But Dakie knew the moment he read, in big letters on the cover, "For the baby's Santa Claus."

"It was the lady!" cried he. Oh, isn't she beautiful!" "Bu'ful!" echoed the baby.—Youth's Companion.

Bonanza Flood's new palace, to be erected on the north side of California street, San Francisco, will be a two-story and basement structure of 100x100 feet superficial area. The foundation will contain 1,000,000 bricks. The central hall will be 45x32 feet and 25 feet high; the dining-room, 45x30; the library, 26x30; the grand reception-room, 26x29; the drawing-room, 45x30; and the hall and music-room, 50x37. These last three rooms may be thrown open and made one. No estimate of the cost has been made public.

Sweet Charity.

The Virginia City, Nov., "Enterprise" relates that a pair of robins and a pair of cat-birds had nests near the residence of a gentleman at that place, and hatched out their young about the same time. One day the cat-birds were missed, having probably been shot. The young cat-birds were in danger of starvation, and when the robins came home with worms for their young, the little cat-birds opened their mouths and made a great outcry. The robins understood the appeal and began feeding them. They did not do what they had undertaken to do, but each evening the female robin sat on her own nest, and warmed with her body her own young, while the male robin took the lot of cat-birds. In this way both broods were reared, the little cat-birds growing up as strong and lively as though they had been cared for all through by their own parents.

Steel Plates Supplanting Belts. In some places in Europe, steel bars are used in preference to belts, supplanting those altogether, sometimes, in church steeples, and producing very pure, distinct and melodious sounds. An English writer even advocates their general use on the ground that, while in point of sonorosity they are equal to the common bell, in certain other respects they are to be preferred to it. Their weight will be light in comparison with the ponderous objects they are to replace; they will not burden the steeple so much, and consequently will not be so difficult, dangerous and expensive; they are not liable to crack, as is the case with the bells, and are, therefore, adapted for use in any climate; they can also be operated by a simple mechanical contrivance. They are also much cheaper than bells.

One of the most interesting features of agriculture in California is olive-growing. It is thought that the State could easily raise a crop as large as that of Italy, which sells yearly for fifty million dollars. One ranch owner at Santa Barbara has derived a profit of twenty-two thousand dollars an acre from his plantation.

A rough diamond—A covet breaking stones. Young men or middle aged ones, suffering from nervous debility and kindred weaknesses should send three stamps for Part VII of World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

"Are you going to the funeral this afternoon, Mrs. Egan?" asked one lady of another on Broadway. "Well, yes, if my husband don't bring home matinee tickets," replied the latter.

"Woman and Her Diseases" is the title of an interesting treatise (96 pages sent, postpaid, for three stamps. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.)

The most absent-minded of men is the professor, who when he is busy knocking the ashes out of his pipe, will call out, "Come in."

A DEAD SHOT may be taken at liver and bilious disorders with Dr. R. V. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets. Mild yet certain in operation; and their effect is more certain and permanent upon taking severe and drastic cathartics. By druggists.

"I was only footing one of your late bills," remarked a fond father to his daughter, after kicking her sweet William out of the front yard.

Piles! Piles! Piles! Sure cure for Blind, Bleeding and Itching Piles. One box has cured worst cases of 20 years standing. No need of medicine. Five minutes after using William's Indian Pine Ointment. It absorbs tumors, allays itching, acts as astringent, gives instant relief. Prepared only for Dr. J. C. Frazier, 215 Broadway, New York. Mailed for \$1. Frazier Med. Co., Cleveland O.

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The greatest Engine in the world is the new Barter portable, in use all over the world. Descriptive circulars free. Address J. C. Todd, 17 Barclay St., New York.

25c buys a pair of Lyon's Patent Heel Stiffeners; makes a boot or shoe last twice as long.

Dr. Sanford's Liver Invigorator. Just what name implies: Cathartic. Reliable. The Indian of falcon glance and lion bearing, the theme of the touching ballad, is gone; but the petroleum he discovered, now made into Carboline, the natural Hair Restorer, will live forever.

"Hough on Coughs." Ask for "Hough on Coughs," for Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Tracheitis, etc. Mailed from Boston.

Nothing better for Asthma than Peppermint Cure for Consumption. 25 cents per bottle.

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MAKE HENS LAY CHICKEN CHOLERA. It is a well-known fact that most of the fowls and Cattle Powder sold in this country is worthless.

Thousands Hastened to These Graves! Relying on testimonials written in vivid glowing language of some miraculous cures made by some largely puffed up doctor or patent medicine has hastened thousands to their graves; believing in their almost insane faith that the same miracle will be performed on them, and that these testimonials are all the time leading them to their graves. We have avoided publishing testimonials, as they do not make the cure, although we have.

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