

It was a picturesque and grant face or borse. the fire steeds of the prairie and the iron borse. The former has no delays to make at stations, side tracks, and crossings: the latter had the advantage of human brane to do its thinking and pilot it. On, on they sped through the thick and stormy night. One crackling and whispering in the wind, scaring and driving away every living thing in its path; the other neighing and pressing forwards with a tread which shook the ground and made the light in the nearest windows quiver like aspen leaves.

One flared its banner of flame in the sky, and tossed its torches upon the crisp air, warning of approaching danger and light in which to escape to a safe retreat; the other, with its mane of smoke and breath of sparks, and its eye in its forchead, dashed along in a "meteoric shower" of sparks. It was "poetry in motion"—ringing with the rhythm of progress, whose sound is music married to the couplet of iron, in the iron epic of an advancing age. Our locomotive gained the race at last, and we left the flery cavalry in the distance, fighting with the wind and the snow, and leaping over the creeks and ponds in its course—making bonfires of the lone haystacks that stood, like Lot's wife, within the reach of its innumerable spears of flame. Before it was borne a crimson flag that lit up the heavens; behind it was a charred and blackened wake of cinders. Whether it swept away any human habitations in its path I cannot say; but it was a most attractive sight, and so full of suggestion I have been tempted to give a brief account of it.

The Crop Report.

The December report of the Agricultural Department, just published, contains a variety of important matter, and facts, and suggestions concerning Southern industry and resources. A history of cotton insects, by practical entomologists, besides valuable statistics from foreign official sources, are among its interesting matter. The Commissioner represents that the corn crop of the States, exclusive of eleven Southern and the Pacific States, was estimated for 1865 in round numbers at 704,000,000 bushels. The same States in 1866 yielded an estimated product of 679,000,000 a decline of 25,000,000 bushels in quantity; a deficiency in quality equivalent to 75,000,600 more, making a difference in the feeding value of the crop of 100,000,000 bushels between this and the previous year. In regard to the cotton crop, it is believed that the following table, carefully prepared, gives the total number of bales manufactured during the past year;—

	Louisiana
Georgia	Arkat sas
	Tennessee
Mississippi 270,000	
Total	1,750,000

The Amusements of New York.

Recently we gave a statement of the receipts at the principal places of amagement in this city for eleven months of last year, and which amounted in the aggregate to \$1,365,568. To this we now add the New York Circus, \$219,052; Yan Amburgh's Menageric (eight months), \$217,396; Academy of Music (four months), \$120,161; San Francisco Minstrels (nine months), \$59,258; Broadway Theatre (eight months), \$59,258; Broadway Theatre (eight months), \$59,258; Broadway Theatre (eight months), \$10,046-making a grand aggregate of \$2,299,867 in the eleven months of last year. On this basis we estimate the total amount expended for amagements in this city last year at \$2,491,521-nearly two and a haif million dollars. It will be seen that the figures are still incomplete. Barnum's Museum omits con months; San Francisco Minstrels, two months; Broadway Theatre, one month; which, when made, will probably swell the aggregate to over two and a haif million dollars. - New York Commercial Advertiser.

-The Worst Tax-a tax of gout.-Punch.

TRICOT BEAVERS. CHINCHILLA BEAVERS	Balmoral Skirts, 81 75-00 Ladies' Merino Veste at r
FINE OVERCOATINGS. BROWN MOSCOW BEAVERS. BLUE MOSCOW BEAVERS.	FARIES &
BLACK CASTOR BEAVERS	DEPOT
J. C. STRAWBRIDGE & CO.	FUBNISHING
8	A CA
NORTHWESI CORNER	SHEPPARD, VAN HARI
a e v	No. 1008 CHE
EIGHTH AND MARKET STS	Whose establishment for th HOUSE-FURNISHI
LLIKEN	 Is unequalled in the extent ment, beg to announce to H I -G THELK SUPPLY, or that they are now receiving SPRING ASSO
MAL STATES	
LINEN STORE.	FOR HOUSE BUCH
67 828 ARCH STREET.	LINEN SHEETINGS, COTTON SHEETINGS, PILLOW LINENS, PILLOW MUSLI DAMASE TA
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Fine Table Cloths.	Table and Embroidered I And every other article a
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Extra Large Table Cloths.	In Anticipation N. W. Corner ELEVE
Napkins to Match.	White Goods, Laces and Lace Goo Hardkerchiefs, Lace variety. Linen Collars and
UPWARDS OF 200 PIECIS	Veils, Scarfs, Neck
ots his ch	HOLIDAY
To 52; Hoovy Power Learn Table Line	AT REDUC
s), neavy,rower-Loom lable Line ^{s),} ^{ht}	ⁿ , E. M. N
s), FROM 75 CENTS PER YARD,	Joens TUNS
of Dn ed at	628 PLATEST STY LE PETIT TRAIL for th THE CHAMPION TRAIL yards round.
THE LARGEST LINEN STOC	These Skiris are in every we have hereto ore offened lines of Ladney', Misses', as Hoop Skiris from 2% to every length. all of 'our retail, and warranted to giv Constantiy on haid low;
da IN THE CITY, flashul	Plain and Trail, 20 springs springs, \$110; and 40 spring Skirts made to order, alte Call or send for Circular
Selling at Importer's Prices.	Manufactory and Saless No. 628 ARC

Bargains in Linen Towels, 189, 25 and 36 cents.	
Balmoral Skirts, 81 75-over 50 dozen sold. Ladies' Merino Veste at reduced prices, etc.	KELTY, CARRINGTON & CO.,
	No. 723 CHESNUT Street,
FARIES & WARNER,	$\mathbf E$ are constantly in Stock, for retail city and country trade, their
95] No. 829 North NINTH Street, above Race.	CELEBRATED WINDOW SHADES MANUFACTURED BY THEM ONLY.
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Whose establishment for the sale of	GROCERIES, ETC.
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is unequalled in the extent and variety of its assort- ent, bes to announce to HOUSEKEEPERS RENEW- O THEIR SUPPLY, or persons about to furnish, at they are now receiving their	OF THE FINEST QUALITY,
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12 4 9m William T. HOPEINS.	chase. ENVELOPES MADE TO ORDER. Orders Taken for Blank Books of every description.

Four other Companies were organized about the same time with the EQUITABLE, and their combined business for the year is \$25,950,706, or \$396,294 less than that of this Society, while their total disbursements, including losses by death and expenses, are about thirty-five per cent. of their total income, whilst the EQUITABLE was less than twenty-six per cent.

At the date of the organization of this Company in 1859, there were eighteen American Life Insurance Companies in the field, some of them having commenced business nearly twenty years earlier, and none of them having been organized later than 1853; and although this is but the seventh year of the Society, it is already doing a larger business than fourteen of the eighteen Companies above alluded to, while its percentage of disbursements to cash income is less than that of any of the other four.

Our next dividend will be declared February 1, 1867. and annually thereafter, and may be used in any of the following ways:—As each in payment of premium—for the permanent increase of the sum assured—for the increase of the sum assured for one year or a term of years—for the permanent reduction of the premium—for the reduction of the number of years in which premiums are to be paid.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY is an institution which is eminently entitled to the public confidence and consideration. It possesses features peculiar to itself, which belong to no other association in this country engaged in the business of Life Insurance, and which are so favorable to the assured that they cannot fail, in the opinion of the unders igned, to commend the Society in a peculiar manner to the attention and consideration of the public :--

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