Number seven is more favored in the world then any other digit. It is true that, in a certain conventional sense, Number One is said to occupy more of each man's attention; but, this selfish aspect set aside, the palm must certainly be given in all other respects to Number Seven. The favoritism of this number is variously explained. Ingpen, in 1624, satisfied himself of the superexcellence of Number Seven in the following ingenious way:- "It is compounded of one and six, two and five, three and four. Now every one of these being excellent of themselves (as hath been demonstrated), how can this number but be far more excellent, consisting of them all, and participating as it were of all their excellent virtues?" Number Seven was largely used by the Hebrew biblical writers, both in the plain and ordinary sense and in a typical or figurative man-ner. Besides the seven days of the week, there were Jewish feasts or festivals connected with a period of seven

weeks; seven times seven years constituted a jubilee or period of rejoicing; the candle-stick of Moses had seven branches, etc. Then there are the many passages relating in various ways and at different eras in the Biblical narrative, to the Seven Churches of Asia, the Seven Wise Men, the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost, the Seventh Day of the Seventh Month, the freeing of bondmen in the Seventh Year, the Seven Mysteterious Seals, the Seven Symbolical Trumpets, the Seven Heads of the Dragon, the Seven Angels, the Seven Witnesses, etc. The Roman Catholic Church is rich in Number Seven, in doctrine and in ritual. There are the Seven Deadly Sins, the Seven Sacraments, the Seven Canonical Hours, the Seven Joys and Seven Sorrows of the Virgin Mary, and the Seven Penitential Psalms. The canonical hours here mentioned are the times fixed for divine service in the churches; they divide the ecclesiastical day into seven parts; and besides having a mystical relation to certain sacred occurrences, they are regarded as symbolizing the seven days of creation, the seven times a day that the just man falls, the seven graces of the Holy Spirit, the seven divisions of the Lord's Prayer, and other applications of Number Seven. There is in Lambeth Palace Library a manuscript about four centuries old, in which the seven hours are connected with the seven periods of man's life, as follows:-Morning, infancy; mid-morrow, childhood; andern, school-age; midday, the knightly age; nones or high noon, the kingly age; midovernoon, elderly; evenson, declining. It is interesting to compare this with Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man, as depicted by melancholy Jacques in As You Like It. There is a still older MS. illuminated in an elaborate manner. It represents a wheel cut into noven rays, and composed of seven concentrie cordons, which with the rays form seven times seven compartments; seven of these compartments contain the Seven Petitions of the Lord's Prayer; seven others, the Seven Sacraments; seven others, the Seven Spiritual Arms of Justice; seven others, the Seven Works of Mercy; seven others, the Seven Virtues: seven others, the Seven Deadly

Departing from these serious matters, we find Number Seven in favor in all sorts of mundane and social affairs. There were the Seven Stones of the Arabs, and the Seven Tripods of Agamemnon. There were the Seven Wonders of the World, and the Seven Hills on which more than one celebrated city is said to be built. There were the Seven Planets and the Seven Stars-the former, cruelly disturbed in number and put out of joint by modern astronomical discoveries; the latter applicable either to the seven principal stars in Orion, or to those in the Great Bear, or to the beautiful little Pleiades, There were the Seven Sleepers of Ephesus, whose sound nap lasted two hundred and twenty-nine years, and who have had companions in the Seven Mohammedan Sleepers, and the Seven Sleepers of the North. are told that there are seven liberal arts, seven senses, seven notes in music, and seven colors in the rainbow, neither more nor less. For some special inquiries, there is a jury of seven matrons. There used to be, more frequently than at present, a period of seven years' apprenticeship; and many a malefactor has had occasion to know that seven years was a frequent duration for a sentence of transportation. Some years ago there was a Septuagenarian Club proposed, in which every member was to be seven times ten years or upwards; all young fellows between sixty-five and seventy entering it simply as cadets. Seven Oaks have, as we know, given a name to a pleasant place in Kent; and Dean Stanley describes seven oaks standing in a line at a particular spot in Palestine, associated in the minds of the natives with a very strange legend. When Cain (the legend runs) killed his brother Abel, he was punished by being compelled to carry the dead body during the long period of five hundred years, and to bury it in this spot; he planted his staff to mark the spot, and out of this staff grew up the seven oak trees.

Sins; and the last seven, the Seven Gifts

of the Holy Ghost-all beautifully written

and painted.

Who can tell us anything about the Seven Sisters, the name of seven elm trees at Tottenham, which have also given their name to the road from thence to Upper Holloway? In Bedwell's History of Tottenham, written nearly two hundred and forty years ago, he describes Page-green, by the side of the highroad at that village, and a group of seven elm trees in a circle, with a walnut tree in the centre. He says:- "This tree hath this many yeares stod there, and it is observed yearely to live and beare leavs, and yet to stand at a stay, that is, to growe neither greater nor higher. This people do commonly tell the reason to bee, for that there was one burnt upon that place for the profession of the Gospell." There was also some connecting link between the walnut tree and the Seven Sisters by which it was surrounded. There were seven elms planted by seven sisters, one by each. The tree planted by the most diminutive of the sisters was always irregular and low in its growth. But now comes another legend of the walnut tree. There was an eighth sister, who planted an elm in the midst of the other seven; it withered and died when she died, and then a walnut tree grew in its place. But now the walnut tree is gone, one of the elms is gone, and the others are gradually withering. In Ireland there is a legend connected with a lonely castle on the coast of Kerry, telling, in like manner, of seven sisters. The lord of the castle was a grim and cruel man, who had seven beautiful daughters. Seven brothers, belonging to a band of Northmen rovers, were cast on that coast, and fell desperately in love with the seven ladies. A clandestine escape was planned; this being discovered, the heartless parent threw all the seven lovely damsels down a chasm into the raging surf below. Something more is known about that paradise of birdcages, that emporium of birds and bird-lime, that resort of bird-catchers and bird-buyers, Seven Dials. Evelyn, writing in

1694, said, "I went to see the building beginning near St. Giles', where seven streets make a star from a Doric pillar placed in the middle of a circular area. This erection was said to be seven feet square at the top, had seven faces or sides, and seven sun-dials on those seven faces. The seven dials faced seven streets:-Great Earl, Little Earl, Great St. Andrew's, Little St. Andrew's, Great White Lion, Little White Lion, and Queen streets. The pillar and its seven dials were removed about three-quarters of a century ago. Were they not taken to Walton-on-Thames, and are they in existence now?

Those friends of our boyish years, the Seven Champions of Christendom, have been a subject of more learned discussion than most boys-even old boys-would suppose. It would seem a daring question to ask whether Shakespeare condescended to borrow any of his beautiful language, any of his rich imagery, from his book. And yet such a question has been asked. Mr. Keightley, author of the Fairy Mythology, started the subject a few years ago in Notes and Queries. It appears that Richard Johnson, the author of the Seven Champions, was one of the contemporaries of Shakespeare, and that the book was published at about the same time as many of the plays of our great poet. Let us eite three passages pointed out by Mr. Keightley. The Champions say:- "As they passed along by the river side, which, gently running, made sweet music with the enamelled stones, and seemed to give a gentle kiss to every sedge he overtook in his watery pilgrimage. Compare this with a passage in the second act of the Two Gentlemen of Verona:-

"The current that with gentle murmurs glides Thou knowest, being stopped, impatiently doth rage; But, when his fair course is not hindered. He makes sweet music with the enamel'd stones,

Giving a gentle kiss to every sedge He overtaketh in his pilgrimage. The italicized words in the latter show how many are the points of resemblance in the imagery and language. A second passage runs thus:—"Where they found in Duke Ursini, Death's pale flag advanced in his With this compare a passage in the fifth act of Romeo and Juliet:-

"Beauty's ensign yet Is crimson in thy lips and in thy cheeks, And Death's pale flag is not advanced there."

Once more:-"It seemed indeed that the eaves wagged, as you may behold when Zephyrus with a gentle breath plays with them." Now turn to the fourth act of Cymbeline:-

"As Zephyrs, blowing beneath the violet, not Wagging his sweet head,"

We cannot go into the critical questions of bibliography involved here; but may simply state that an opinion is held by commenta-tors in favor of Johnson having had precedence of Shakespeare in these passages. At any rate, Number Seven is very much honored by such comparisons.

Not the least curious among these associa-tions of Number Seven is that with the seventh son. Whoever has the good fortune to be the father of seven boys, especially if no girl intervene to break the continuity of the series, is to be congratulated forthwith. Let him not talk about too many olive branches in his garden, or too many arrows in his quiver, or too many little folks around his table; his seventh boy will be a wonder. In the district around Orleans in France, a seventh son, without a daughter intervening, is called a marcou. His body is (or is supposed by the peasantry to be) marked some spot or other with a fleur-de-lis. If

a patient suffering under king's evil touch the fleur-de-lis, or if the marcou breathe upon him, the malady disappears. Or at least there is so great a popular faith that it will do so, that the country people will come from places far and wide to visit a marcou.

About fifteen years ago there was one of these persons named Foulon, a cooper, at Ormes, who was greatly sought for his reputed healing powers, especially in Holy Week, and more especially on Good Friday, when his patients reached the number of four or five hundred. As to the origin of the name king's-evil, a manuscript in the University library at Cambridge tells us that "The Kings of England and Fraunce by a peculiar guift cure the king's-evill by touching them with their hands; and so doth the seaventh sonne." It is something to say that a seventh son, in this matter, is as good as a king. Mr. Keightley has found among the Welsh folk-lore an account of a family famous in this way. "Jones was their name, and they lived at a place called Muddfi. In them was said to have originated the tradition of the seventh son, or Septimus, being born for the healing art; as for many generations seven sons were regularly born in each family, the seventh of whom became the doctor, and wonderful in his profession.' Steele jested at this belief a century and a half ago, in sarcastic relation to another of the troubles with which men are occasionally visited:-"Tipstaff, being a seventh son, used to cure the king's evil, but his rascally descendants are so far from having that healing quality, that by a touch upon the shoulder they gave a man such an ill habit of body, that he can never come abroad afterwards.' But if there happen to be a seventh son of

a seventh son, the curative powers are much more marvellous. Mr. Carleton, in his story of the Black Prophet, says that the Irish peasantry entertain a very undoubting faith in the reality of these powers. In Cornwall the belief is, in like manner, entertained; the ordeal being that the gifted person should thrice gently stroke the part affected, thrice blow on it, and repeat certain words. At Bristol, some years ago, a tradesman was regularly called Dr. So-and-so simply because he was the seventh son, and without any relation to his actual trade. Early in the present century, a man perambulated the rural districts of Hamsphire to cure the blind, the sick, and the lame. Numerous cures were ascribed to him, and he had quite a large collection of crutches and walking-sticks, said to have been left by his patients, who had no longer any need for them. How much was deception, and how much due to the implicit faith placed in him by the ignorent, it might have been difficult to decide: but he was held in much awe and respect on account of his claim to be the seventh son of a seventh son. At Plymouth, not very long ago, was to be seen this inscription on a

> A. SHEPHERD, The third seventh daughter, Doctress.

A Yorkshire lad at a school was purposely intended to study afterwards for the medical profession, because, as he told his schoolellows, "The seventh of the seventh maks the bigg'st o' doctors." Another story is told of an Irish lad, who, as an errand-boy, was frequently censured for being late in his arrival, and dilatory when on his errands.

His excuse on one occasion took the following form:—"I'm sure I wouldn't help it, sir, I'm sure I wouldn't. I've only bin on an act o' mercy. Ye see, sir, I'm a seventh of a seventh, an' I touches for sickness, sir, an' I've been to two childer this morn, sir, a long way." It appeared that he had to touch, fasting, in order that his wonderful proper-ties should be developed; and his palm was

crossed by a piece of silver varying in value from a fourpenny piece to half a crown, according to the social position of his patients. -All the Year Round.

A NIGHT OF DEATH.

The Destruction of the Richmond Theatre in 1811-Seventy Lives Lost. The gloom that pervades Richmond on account of the recent disaster is quite as deep as that which rested upon it on the morning of the 27th of December, 1811. On the night of Thursday, the 26th, the Richmond Theatre was burned, and some fifty of her first citizens either trampled or burned to death, and twenty more afterward died from injuries received. The Richmond Enquirer, on the 28th of the same month, contained the following description of the night of horrors:-

On Thursday night a new play and a new afterpiece were played for the benefit of Mr. Placide. Crowds swarmed to the theatre-it was the fullest house this season—there were not less than 600 present. The play went off-the pantomime began, the first act was over. The whole scene was before us, and all around us was mirth and festivity. O, God! what a horrible revolution did one minute produce! The curtain rose on the second act of the pantomime, the orchestra was in full chorus, and Mr. West came on to open the scene, when sparks of fire began to fall on the back part of the stage, and Mr. Robinson came out in unutterable distress, waved his hand to the ceiling, and uttered these appalling words: "The house is on fire!" His hand was instantly stretched forth to persons in the stage box to help them on the stage, and aid their retreat in that direction This is all that we caught of the stage, the cry of "fire, fire," passed with electrical velocity through the house every one flew from their seats to gain the lobby stairs. The scene baffles all description. The most heart-rending cries pervaded the house. "Save me, save me;" wives asking for their husbands; females and children shricking, while the gathering element came rolling on its curling flames and column of smoke, threatening to devour every human being in the building. Many were trod under foot. Several were thrown back from the windows, from which they were struggling to leap. The stairways were immediately blocked up; the throng was so great that many were raised several feet over the heads of the rest; the smoke threatened an instant destruction. Many leaped from the windows of the first story and were saved. Children and females and men of all descriptions were seen to precipitate themselves on the ground below. Most of these escaped, though several of them with broken legs and thighs and hideous contusions. Most, if not all, who were in the pit escaped. How melancholy that many who were in the boxes did not also jump into the pit and fly in the same direction: but those who were in the boxes above and below pushed for the lobbies; many, as has been said, escaped through the windows, but the most of them had no other resource than to descend the stairs. Many escaped this way, but so great was the pressure that they retarded each other until the devouring element approached to sweep them into eternity. Several who even emerged from the building were so much scorched that they have since perished. Some even jumped from the second-story window; some others had been

dreadfully burned. The fire flew with a rapidity almost beyond example; within ten minutes after it caught the whole house was wrapt in flames. The colored people in the gallery, most of them escaped through the stairs cut off from the rest of the house-some have no doubt fallen victims. The pit and boxes have but one common avenue only, through which the whole crowd could escape, save those only who leaped through the windows.

But the scene which ensued it is impossible to paint. Women with dishevelled hair, fathers and mothers shricking out for their children, husbands for their wives, brothers for their sisters, filled the whole area on the outside of the building. A few who had escaped plunged again into the flames to save some dear object of their regard, and they perished. The Governor, perhaps, shared this melancholy fate. Others were frantic, and would have rushed to destruction, but for the hand of a friend. The bells tolled; almost the whole town rushed to the fatal

The flames must have caught to the scenery from some light behind. Robertson saw it when it was no longer than his arm. Young saw it on the roof when it burst through. Every article of the theatre was consumed, as well as the dwelling house next to it; but what is wealth in comparison to the valuable lives which have gone forever? The whole town is shrouded in woe. Heads of families extinguished forever. Many and many is the house in which a chasm has been made that can never be filled up. We cannot dwell on this picture.

The citizens of Richmond met at the Capitol on Friday, the 27th of December, 1811, over which the Mayor presided, at which committees were appointed to ascertain the names of those killed and injured, recommending that the following Wednesday be observed as a day of humiliation and prayer, and appointing a committee to inquire into the causes of the catastrophe.

The funeral of those who lost their lives took place on the 28th of December.

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

BRANCH OFFICE, CONTINENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

Pritishung, April 30, 1870.

A meeting of the Stockholders of the Continental Improvement Company will be held in the Branch Office of the Company, in the city of Pittsburg corner of PENN and TENTH Streets), on TUESDAY, May 17, at 12 o'clock, noon, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors to serve for the current year, and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. And also for the purpose of considering and acting upon the provisions of the Supplement to the Charter of said Company, approved Twenty-fourth day of March, 1870. W. R. SHELBY,

BOY NOTICE .- A SPECIAL MEETING OF the Stockholders of the PHILADELPHIA, GER-MANTOWN, AND NORRISTOWN RAILROAD COM-PANY will be held in Room No. 24, PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE, on THURSDAY, the 9th day of June next, at 12 o'clock M., for the consideration of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act to authorize the Philadelphia, German-town, and Norristown Railroad Company to increase its Capital Stock," approved the 29to day of March, 1870. By order of the Board of Managers.
5 2 to 9 A. E. DOUGHERTY, Secretary

CAMDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD
AND TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.
OFFICE TRESTON, N. J., April II, 1870.
The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Camden and Amb of Railroad and Transportation Company will be held in Trenton, New Jersey, at the Company's Office, on TUESDAY, the left of May, 1870, at 12 o'clock M., for the election of seven Directors to serve for the ensuing year.

SAMUEL J BAYARD,
416 tMy9 Secretary O. & A. R. R. & T. Oo.

ON AND AFTER SUNDAY, 17TH April, the SPRUCE AND PINE STREETS PASSENGER RAILWAY COMPANY will run their care through from the Exchange to Fairmount Park for one fare.

TREGO'S TEABERRY TOOTHWASH It is the most pleasant, cheapest and best dentifrice extant. Warranted free from injurious ingredients.

It Preserves and Whitens the Teeth!
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Prevents Accumulation of Tartar!
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PROPOSALS.

NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD.

To Railroad Contractors.

Sealed Proposals will be received at the office of the NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY, No. 120 BROADWAY, corner of Cedar street, New York, until WEDNESDAY, the 1st day of une, 1870, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the Grading, Masonry, Bridging and Ballasting of that portion of the Northern Pacific Railroad in the State of Minnesota, extending from the Dalles of the St. Louis River to the Red River, the western boundary of Minnesota (a distance of about 230 miles), including everything requisite to complete the road-bed for a single track, and necessary side tracks, ready to receive the rail superstructure. Proposals may be for the work in detail, or by the

The said Company will also receive Proposals, at the same time and place, for the timber cross-ties, and for the iron rails, spikes, and lixtures for the road as above. The iron rails to be delivered on the dock at Duluth, Minnesota, or at the crossing of the Mississippi River, and the ties to be received according to blank forms which will be ready for distribution on WEDNESDAY, May 4, 1870, at the office of the Company, as above, where plans of the structures, and maps and profiles of the road, with full specifications, can then be seen, and the time allowed for completion of the contracts made known. The Company reserve the right to reject any or all

bids not deemed to be fer the interest of the Company. Printed circulars containing full information will be furnished on application, by mail or otherwise, to EDWIN F. JOHNSON, Chief Engineer, or to the President of the Company, at the office, No. 120 BROADWAY, as above.

J. CRECORY SMITH.

President Northern Pacific Railroad Co. New York, April 26, 1870.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS, OFFICE-No. 104 S. FIFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, May 4, 1870.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received at the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Highways until 12 o'clock M., on MONDAY, 9th instant, for the construction of a Sewer on the line of Coates street, from Twenty-second street to Twenty-third street.
On Sixteenth street, from Market street to the south curb line of Chesnut street. On Locust street, from Fifteenth street to the west

On Locust street, from Fifteenth street to the west line of Vaughn street.

Said Sewers to be constructed with bricks, circular in form, with a clear inside diameter of three feet, with such man-holes as may be directed by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor. The understanding to be that the Sewers herein advertised are to be completed on or before the 31st day of July, 1870. And the contractor shall take bills prepared against the property fronting on said Sewers to the amount of one dollar and lifty cents for each lineal foot of front on each side of the street as so much cash paid; the balance, as limited by ordinance, to be paid by the balance, as limited by ordinance, to be paid by the city; and the contractor will be required to the streets and sewers in good order for three years after the sewer is finished. No allowance will be made for rock excavations, except by special

contract.

When the street is occupied by a City Passenger Railroad track, the sewer shall be constructed along-side of said track in such manner as not to obstruct

side of said track in such manner as not to dostruct or interfere with the sale passage of the cars thereon; and no claim for remuneration shall be paid the contractor by the company using said track, as specified in Act of Assembly approved May 5, 1866.

Each proposal will be accompanied by a certificate that a bond has been filed in the Law Department, as directed by ordinance of May 25, 1860. If the lowest bidder shall not execute a contract within five days after the work is awarded, he will be deemed as declining, and will be held he will be deemed as declining, and will be held liable on his bond for the difference between his bld and the next lowest bidder. Specifications may be had at the Department of Surveys, which will be strictly achieved to. The Department of Highways reserves the right to reject all bids not deemed satis-factory. factory.

All bidders are invited to be present at the time

and place of opening the said proposais.

MAHLON H. DICKINSON, Chief Commissioner of Highways.

STEAMBOAT LINES. FOR CHESTER, HOOK, AND WILMINGTON.—The steamer S. M. FEL-ON leaves CHESNUT STREET WHARF at 10 A, M. and 50 P. M., leaves WILMINGTON at 650 A. M. and 50 P. M. Fare to Wilmington 15 cents Frencision Tickets, 25 cents. Chester or Hook 10 cents; Eigursion Tickets, 15 cents. FINANCIAL.

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