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Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., April 8, 1898.

The Guanajuato Catacomb

The Only Burial Place of the Kind in America.

Knowing what you expect to see here, it is only natural for you to enter the cemetery with some little nervousness and trepidation. But you are reassured when you do enter the big gate, for there is nothing uncanny or "triste," yet to be seen. On the contrary, this Mexican "God's Acre" is all tranquil and bright and beautiful—and you do not think even of the square, black lettered. black-lettered spaces, that are honey-combed, one above the other, all the way around the great wall of the Penteon. These square spaces, five rows of them, contain a vault each, and that is where the

interment is made. It is an enormous place, this cemetery. And well that it is so, for, during the great typhus epidemic in 1803, it received (so people say) about the third of the then population of Guanajuato. For a time, the city council kept some sort of tally on the deaths but as, later on, the council itself, and most of the physicians, succumbed to the fatal disease, no count was kept, and interment was made in a great trench dug in the center of the Panteon, one coffin, with a spring bottom, serving for all, when the ceremony of a coffiin was used at all.

family at once arrange to rent one of the box-like spaces in this Panteon, rent \$1 per month, payable in advance. Then the "deader" (as Sentimental Tommy has it is put away in one of these vaults—not to effects of a fall down stairs. Parkes and the last transport the last transport the last transport the last transport in the last transport is the last transport to the farm adjoining that of his father. Boarding with the family was Miss Bessie White, an invalid and having but one arm, having lost the other from the effects of a fall down stairs. Parkes and the results are transported by the last tra wait the last trump, but to await the next the woman met, loved, and in three months Panteon pay day. When that day comes if the family can't raise the \$12 for the intensified by the sympathy that each had the company that the last trump. next fiscal year, the city council have the vault unsealed, the coffin taken out, and to the hare pas-

underground passage that run all the way the remainder of his life.

built pretty much on the corkscrew plan.

Some godless person, with more sense of humor than grace, has placed the tallest, ugliest and uncanniest (if there is such a near the old homestead, and the legless man's home was brightened the fourth time by a wife. Parkes bought and fitted up a little cottage ugliest and uncanniest (if there is such a near the old homestead, and there he lived word) of all the mummies, at the very bottom of the last step, so arranged that as While watching at the bedside of his father,

right into his bony arms. It is truly a grisly thing to see, once you

Parkes' Grave Now Full.

His Body and One Arm Placed With the Rest of Him. of Four Wives, a Child, His Father, Two Legs, and One Arm—Visiting His Own Grave Finally Caused

After having been reported dead several times William F. Parkes of Rappahannock, a suburb of Girardville, has really passed away. He died on Monday from a complication of diseases, the result of lying un-conscious one night last July on a grave in which both his legs and one arm were

already buried in a coffin.

Parkes was born in a suburb of Detroit, Mich., and at the age of 20 years married Bessie Woodruff, who lived only a year. Shortly after this he had a leg broken by being thrown from a colt he was trying to

Recovering from the effects of the surgical operation, Parkes married his dead wife's sister, who nursed him during his illness, and a short time afterward the couple left for Saratoga, N. Y. The train on which they rode was wrecked. Parkes was pulled unconscious from the debris, clasping the dead and mangled body of his wife. Parkes was seriously injured, his remaining leg being so badly crushed that it had to be amputated.

The grave that contained his first leg was now opened and by its side was placed the second leg.

the ceremony of a coffiin was used at all.

However, waiving the matter of epidemics, in Guanajuato when a person dies the family at once arrange to rent one of the par-like spaces in this Panteon rent. \$1 the "deader" transferred to the huge passages below the Panteon, in the "catacumbas." at New York and Detroit. Then the shadow of death crossed Parkes' life for the third time. His last wife bore him his first child, and her will bequeathed him The "Catacumbas" comprise enormous \$25,000 with which to relieve his wants for

Thrice widowed, Parkes returned again The Panteon man pushes back a big flat stone, over in a corner of the cemetery, and invites you to step into a small dark hole, which admits only one person at a time, and for the fourth time Parkes fell in love. After six months the wooing ended in acyou decend the crooked stairs, you land who was very ill, a servant at his own cot-

tage upset a kerosene lamp in the bedroom The fourth Mrs. Parkes and her child, are safely there. Imagine to yourself long, seemingly endless white passages, silent as only death can make them, heaped up at each end with great piles of bones—the intook place the same day.

The Roll is Now Larger Than at Any Former Time-

ment on the general subject of pensions up to date. Secretary Bliss says:

has recently expressed to me an opinion a ed in the annual report, which was to the effect that after the close of the current

required for the payment of the army and navy pensions for some time to come. In this connection the appended table showing the number of pensioners on the roll and significant. From this it appears that the pension roll has substantially doubled since a quarter of a century after the close of the war. In 1890, twenty-five years after the war closed, the number of pensioners on the roll was 537,944. At the close of the current fiscal year the number on the roll will approximate 996,000, an increase of nearly 90 per cent. since 1890. In that time the value of the roll has increased mately \$132,000,000 in the present fiscal

"The roll is now larger than at any forof hostilities. It contained about 5,500 more pensioners in 1897 than it did in 1896, and approximately 20,000 more in 1898 than in 1897, and the value of the roll has also increased in the same period."

Pension List Grows.

An Increase of 90 Per Cent. in Seven Years.

In sending to Congress a deficiency estimate of \$8,070,872 for pensions this year, Secretary Bliss makes an interesting state-

"On the first day of July, 1897, there was available \$140,000,000 for the payment of army and navy pensions; \$4,000,000 of that amount was set apart for navy pensions, leaving \$136,000,000 for payment of army pensions. The total number of pensioners on the roll June 30th, 1897, was 976.014, while on the 28th of February, 1898, there were 989,613 on the roll, a net increase of 13,599. The Commissioner of Pensions estimates that \$140,500,000 timates that \$48,700,000 is to be required break. Blood poison ensued, and three amputations were performed, until nothing remained of the limb.

for the payment of pensions during the remaining four months of the fiscal year, more than \$8,000,000 in excess of the unexpended appropriation. The Commissioner to the future course of pension payments at variance with his views thereon, as stat-

year payments would rapidly decline.

"It is now his opinion that in view of the increase in number of applications for original pensions and for increase of pensions there will be an increase in the sum the value of the roll annually since 1887 is from \$72,052,143.49 in 1890 to approxi-

mer time, notwithstanding that thirty three years have elapsed since the cessation

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—Johnny (who is just learning about electricity(—"Pa. I thought electric lights were the result of recent discoveries?" Fond Parent—" Why 'cause Willie Jones said to-day that they must be an old thing, and when I asked him why, he said, Well, Noah must have used an ark light.""

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—A little 5-pear-old Chicago boy was visiting in the country when a bowl of bread and milk was given him for supper He tasted it, then paused and looked at it for a moment in silence. "Don't you like it?" asked his mother. "Yes, indeed," replied the little fellow; "I was only wishing our milkman would trade his

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marvelous cures of blood diseases. It is there fore the medicine for you to take in the spring. It expels all humors, and puts the whole system in good condition for warmer weather. OUT OF SORTS. 'My stomach and liver were in a bad condition. and I felt weak and dull, and had hardly strength

enough to walk. I was out of sorts in general. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, and after the use of two bottles I was so much relieved, that I can say no other medicine has ever done me a much good." Mrs. LINNIE HATHAWAY, North

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bones of those who refused to mummify-

eriminately mixed among them are the queathed him \$50,000 in cash and real poor baby mummies. There is not, strange to say, the slight-

May Die of a Baby's Bite.

Dr. Benjamin Put His Finger in an Infant's Mouth, and Its Teeth Made a Laceration His efforts to save the life of a dying child may result in the death of Dr. Dowling Benjamin, one of the best known physicians of South Jersey. The doctor's attention was called last Friday to the condition of a baby at No. 214 Burns street, Camden, in a poor family, that he with

others had been providing for during the winter. The baby had membranous croup and was choking to death when the physician arrived. Hoping to save its life, the doctor put his finger in its mouth to dislodge the phiegm.

The little one in its agony closed its teeth on the physician's finger, making a slight laceration. The child died, this being really its death struggle. The doctor paid no heed to the wound until his arm began

to swell. This has continued up to Wednesday, when the doctor rested easier. Drs. Godfrey and Davis have taken charge and are doing all they can to save their patient. They hope to succeed. Dr. Benjamin's arm, however, is twice its normal size, and he is in an exceedingly weak and-

-Politeness is the foundation rock on which all successful lives are built. The boy who is polite not only to older persons, but also to his playmates, will never want for friends, nor will ever need the influence of others to secure his advance- | dad." ment in the vocations of life.

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condition.

estate valued at \$10,000. Parkes had now only part of himself to est hint of a disagreeable odor. Rather live for, and began weekly visits to the there is a smell of lime. The place is grave of his legs and arm. On the second beautifully clean and white, and there are visit he was run down by a runaway team even some birds that build down here, and and seriously injured. Part of his shoulder weekly visitor to the grave, which he kept

> and directed that the remainder of his estate, \$20,000, be expended in a monument to mark his last resting place.

> Weyler's Daughter. "It's just too bad," said Mrs. St. James layce, "that such a bad man as General Playce, Weyler has such a popular daughter."

"Whom are you talking about?" asked Mr. Playee suddenly.
"Why General Weyler's daughter,"

she replied. "I didn't know he had one," replied

"I had a scrap with my teacher to-day, "What was the trouble?"

The new state capitol will be constructed of brick, and the architect says that the cost of the building will not be beyond the amount of money appropriated by the legislature. The architect is of the opinion that the capitol can be built in time for the meeting of the next legislature, if a contractor can be found who will employ a force sufficient to do the work and who can secure apparatus large enough to handle the material to be used in an expeditious

A state capitol built of brick is not exactly what the people of the great Common-wealth of Pennsylvania can contemplate with pleasure, but there is no apparent remedy. The state is poor. Her treasury is almost bankrupt. The schools of the state are waiting for the funds that should have been paid them months ago. There is a prospect that a deficiency will confront the next legislature. Under these circumstances the state cannot erect a state capitol such as the great Commonwealth should have and must content itself with a brick

structure. The deplorable condition of the finances of the state is due to the fact that the last legislature looted the treasury and hung about the necks of the people a debt which they will feel for many years. The state treasury and the people were fleeced by every trick of extravagance and illegal appropriations known to the corrupt legislator. And yet the legislators are not to blame. The people who elect the members of the assembly must share the responsibility for the present condition of affairs, which has brought reproach upon the fai name of the Keystone state and compelled the erection of a brick capitol to replace

the one that was mysteriously and suspici-

ously destroyed by fire.

The people are again asked to stand by the boss whose henchmen are ever ready to prey upon the public purse and work as-sidiously for their own aggrandizement and the enlargement of the power of their leader Will the taxpayers of Pennsylvania never learn or having learned, will they never put their knowledge of the corruption that follows in the footsteps of boss Quay to the use of destroying his power to bring disgrace and bankruptcy upon the state? The revolt against Quay and treasury looting should come soon that further corrupt practices may not prevail.—Ex.

——"Mamma," said little 4-year-old Mabel, "ain't I as tall as you are!" "Of course not dear,," replied her mother. "She said Burns was a poet, an' I said he was cap'n of th' Chicago Colts."— "You don't come up to my waist."
"Well," answered Mabel, "I'm just as tall down the other way; my feet are as far down as yours."

THE CRUISER COLUMBIA " THE PIRATE " Parkes was lifted into a carriage after A Brick Capitol.

and lined thickly with mummy after mummy, horrible brown, skinny things, fas- the graves were being filled he met with tened in a standing position against the an accident in which he lost an arm. The walls, many of them with their grinning, horses took fright at a locomotive, and dash-fleshless faces turned toward other muming down the road came in collision with a mies, as though in conversation, others with heads bowed, as in meditation or prayer, and others with faces blankly staring up at the stone walls above! Once seen, it is a thing that you do not soon for-get. Along one side are the gentlemen mum-mies, on the other the ladies, and indis-was the death of his mother, who be-

> strewn with flowers until that July day last year that he fell unconscious on the Parkes left a will in which he bequeathed \$50,000 to a hospital for injured coal miners

Mr. Playce did not look up, notes the "But that is always the way," she mused, "and she has such a lovely name,

Mr. Playce.
"Why, yes; here it is all about the Spaniards shouting for 'Viva Weyler It being Lent, Mr. Place did not say it but puffed hard at his eigar and then went

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

into the hall to smile. A Difference of Opinion.

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