Courage to do Right.

We may have courage, all of us,
To stand at honor's call,
To meet a foe, protect a friend,
Or face a cannon-ball?
To show the world one hero lives
The foremost in the fight—
But do we always manifest
The courage to do right?

To answer No! with steady breath,
And quick, unfaltering tongue,
When fierce temptation, ever near,
Her system long has sung
To cure not for the beckoning tone,
The jest, or stinging slight;
Content if we can only have
The courage to do right?

To step aside from Fashion's course,
Or custom's favored plan;
To pluck an outcast from the street,
Or help a fellow man?
If not, then let us nobly try,
Henceforth with all our might,
In every case to muster up
The courage to do right.

Farm, Garden and Household.

HAM TOAST.—Chop some lean ham put it in a pan, with a little pepper, a lump of butter and two eggs beaten; when well warmed, spread it on hot buttered toast, and serve.

RHODE ISLAND BROWN BREAD.—One quart Indian meal, one pint of rye flour, a small cup of molasses, one teaspoonful each of saleratus and salt; with hot water thin it enough to pour; bake three hours.

SAUSAGE.—To every twelve pounds of sausage meat three tablespoons of salt, three of pepper, half a teaspoon red pepper, six tablespoons of sage. When the sausage is all seasoned as above, throw in two or three more tablespoons of sage.

SALLY LUNN.—Seven cups of sifted flour, half a tea-cup of butter, warmed in a pint of milk, one spoonful of salt and three well-beaten eggs, two tablespoonfuls brewers' yeast; if the yeast is home made, use twice as much; Pour this into square pans to rise, and then bake it before it sours.

DISEASE IN FOWLS.—David Wright, Wattsville, Ohio, describes a disease amongst his fowls, which he calls "roup in the tongue." A horny plate grows on the end of the tongue, which prevents them eating, and they die from weakness. When this is pulled off with the finger and thumb, the fowls recover.

SUGAR BISCUITS.—Dissolve one tea-cup of white sugar in a quart of new milk; then stir in a pint of lively yeast, with sifted flour enough to make a stiff sponge; let it rise until very light, then work into a sponge three-quarters of a pound of melted butter, with sifted flour enough to make a stiff dough; work the dough thoroughly, cut into buiscuits, let them stand on buttered tins to rise; sift sugar upon each and bake in a quick oven.

CLOVER—HOW SHOULD IT BE PASTURED?—Ex-Senator George Geddes, of Onondaga, N. Y., gave his views on clover to the Farmers' Club. In pasturing it, caution should be used. It should be permitted to get a fair growth, and before stock were turned on it they should be turned on to a grass field where they could take off the sharp edge of their appetite; when the dew was off they might be left on to the clover. Clover should not be pastured very early or late.

BLACK DYEING.—For dyeing heavy black upon silk, an extract of horse-chestnut wood has recently acquired great importance. It is perferred to nut galls or divi-divi for this purpose. To what particular principle in the wood is to be ascribed the important property of which use is now made, has not been determined with certainty; but it appears to be ascertained that the attractive matter of horse-chestnut wood now plays an important part in the silk manufacture in Europe.

BLACK BEAN SOUP.—Soak one quart of black beans over night—add six quarts of water—put them on the fire early in the morning—boil slowly with two chopped onions, pepper and salt to taste—add a dozen cloves and one pound of beef. When the beef is well boiled, take it out, chop fine, mix with bread crumbs, season with sweet majorum, cloves, salt, and pepper, and fry brown. Put some of them into the tureen; strain the soup over them. Stir hard boiled eggs and lemon into it before sending on the table.

HOW TO LENGTHEN SHORT SKIRTS.—Modistes have devised a plan for lengthening the short skirts of street dresses, so that they may trail on the floor when worn in the house. Make the six-gored skirt of ordinary walking length—that is, just escaping the ground; cut the placket hole in the middle of the back; sew the three front breadths with slight gathers to the belt, and finish the belt with hooks and eyes, leaving the three back widths hanging; then face the upper part of the back widths, and put in a drawing-string. When the skirt is to be worn in the streets, draw the back breadths up to the belt; when it is required to train slightly in the house, let the fullness droop low over the tournure, and the over-skirt or polonaise will conceal the loose hanging breadths.

REMOVING THE SMELL OF PETROLEUM.—Professor Stolba publishes what he considers the best method of completely removing from glass or other vessels the smell of any petroleum which may have been previously contained in them. This simply consists in introducing a suitable quantity of milk of lime and shaking it around thoroughly, and, after allowing it to stand for a time, repeating the operation in a few minutes. At the same time the external surface of the vessel is to be washed with a rag dipped in the same substance. Petroleum forms an emulsion with the milk of lime, and can thus be readily removed. If particles of thickened petroleum adhere to the glass, these can be removed by washing with fine sand, or by other mechanical means. After emptying out the emulsion produced, it is only necessary to rinse with water, after which as much chloride of lime as will go on the point of a knife is to be introduced and shaken with water, and then allowed to stand about an hour, the exterior being rinsed off in a similar manner. If the liquids referred to are used hot, this operation will be materially facilitated.

Buffalo Range.

The favorite range of the buffalo, says Gen. Custer, is contained in a belt of country running north and south, about two hundred miles wide, and extending from the Platte river on the north to the valley of the Upper Canadian on the south. In migrating, if not grazing or alarmed, the buffalo invariably moves in single file, the column generally being headed by a patriarch of the herd, who is not only familiar with the topography of the country, but whose prowess "in the field" entitles him to become the leader of his herd. He maintains this leadership only so long as his strength and courage enable him to remain the successful champion in the innumerable contests which he is called upon to maintain. The buffalo trails are always objects of interest and inquiry to the sight-seer on the Plains. These trails made by the herds in their migrating movements are so regular in their construction and course as to well excite curiosity. They vary but little from eight to ten inches in width, and are usually from two to four inches in depth; their course is almost as unvarying as that of the needle, running north and south. Of the thousands of buffalo trails which I have seen, I recollect none of which the general direction was not north and south. This may seem somewhat surprising at first thought, but it admits of a simple and satisfactory explanation.

THE work of trying the communist prisoners in France is proceeding as fast as possible, and additional courts are to be created, the more rapidly to dispose of the remaining cases. Up to the present day 14,378 persons have been tried; of these, 2,022 have been convicted and sentenced, and 12,356 have been discharged.

At French aristocratic weddings, the bride is invariably dressed in the simplest manner, the groom in frock coat, light pants, and gloves. We wonder what *our* brides think most of, what the minister is saying, or how they shall manage their trails going down the aisle.

Items of Interest.

ST. PETERSBURG has about the population of Philadelphia; Moscow about that of Brooklyn.

THE United States Treasurer holds as security for national bank circulation, $379,652,500.

ADVICES from Hindostan tell of a dangerous rising of Sepoys at Gao and great damage by floods in Bengal.

FIFTEEN persons were more or less injured by the upsetting of a train on the Pittsburg and Connellsville Railroad near Newton, Pa.

THE cattle plague, which has been very prevalent in the territory of Cochin China, is decreasing, but its ravages have been severe.

OF the dozen expeditions now besieging the icy fastnesses of the Artic region, only two have received aid from any government.

THE people of Wisconsin, at their late election gave a majority of over 50,000 votes in favor of a constitutional amendment restricting special legislation.

IN future no white horses are to be employed in the French Army. They were found to be such excellent guides to the Prussians whereto direct their fire.

THE total imports at New York, for the past week were $5,225,039 against $5,861,617 the previous week and $4,374,656 for the corresponding week of last year.

THE Union Pacific Railroad is threatened with suits by San Francisco merchants who have lost heavily by the delay in the delivery of their holiday goods from New York.

THREE survivers of a Japanese crew, whose disabled junk had drifted for nine months, ultimately reaching Alaska, have just been taken to San Francisco, on their way home again.

THE seven days beginning with Tuesday, the 19th, and ending with Christmas, the 25th, are the shortest days of the year—the sun rising at 7:30 and setting at half-past four.

PENNSYLVANIA reduces its state debt gradually. Four years ago it was more than forty millions of dollars. It was reduced more than two millions during the year ending November 30, last.

THE Chamber of Commerce, of New York, have received additional subscriptions for the relief of the West, amounting to $45,178 12. The gross receipts have amounted to $1,001,848 83.

FRANK MAYS, was hanged at Grenada, Miss., for the murder of his wife by ratsbane last April. He had been twice respited. He was overcome by fright, and had to be carried to the scaffold.

A number of the meteorites, the largest of which is said to weigh twenty-five tons, were discovered in Greenland by the Swedish scientific expedition which has lately returned from that country.

PRINCE BISMARCK has sent a despatch to Baron von Arium, the German representative at Paris, setting forth the feeling of exasperation caused in Germany by the outrages perpetrated on her soldiers in France.

J. A. HOWARD, an American physician, charged with aiding the rebels in Cuba, has been tried, convicted, and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in a penitentiary. His case is to be submitted to Valmaseda.

THE Russian papers have long leaders on the subject of the Grand Duke Alexis' visit to the United States. The papers rejoice at the safe arrival of the squadron, and at the reception everywhere given the Duke.

A MICHIGAN women, named Lossing, who stuffed red pepper in her niece's eyes, because she did not eat fast enough, has been sentenced to pay a fine of $100 and confinement in the Detroit House of Correction for ninety days.

BISMARCK has sent a strongly-worded, not to say furious, despatch to Baron von Arnim, the German representative at Paris, in reference to the outrages perpetrated on German soldiers in France. He threatens very severe retaliatory measures.

THE St. Petersburg *Messenger*, an official organ of the government, announces for the first time the removal of Minister Catacazy from Washington, owing, it says, to personal difficulties which might prejudice the good relations existing between Russia and the United States.

NEWFOUNDLAND, is just now enjoying an era of great commercial prosperity. The capture of the almost fabulous number of 500,000 seals in the spring of this year, and a most successful cod fishery, have been followed by the reappearance of mackerel on the coast after an absence of forty years.

ASTONISHING progress is making in the political and social revolution in Japan. Among the latest projects are the closing of the Buddhist temples and compelling the priests to enter the army or earn their living in some other way, and the sending of twenty young Japanese ladies to be educated in America.

THERE is excitement in Curacoa about the arrest of the Attorney-General by order of the government. The people objected and assembled to demonstrate their objections, whereupon the troops were called out and ordering to fire upon the crowd. One person was killed and nineteen wounded.

THE Shoshonee Indians of Nevada have been accustomed to ride free on the Central Pacific Railroad freight trains. A number of them, including three chiefs, insisted on riding on a passenger train, but the train went off and left them. The Indians now threaten to tear up the track, and it is feared they will do so.

THE excitement caused among the Spaniards of Havana by rumors of an impending war between the United States and Spain are by no means abated, on the contrary, appear to be on the increase. The Dons had become quite bellicose over the subject, and, by talk at least, were giving demonstrations of their readiness for the fray should it come.

Diet and Exercise.

Dr. Parkes, while investigating the effect of diet and exercise on the elimination of nitrogen, had for his subject a very healthy, powerful, and temperate young soldier. He conducted one series of experiments in which the man was fed on ordinary diet, and the amount of nitrogen content was kept as near as possible constant. In a second series prepared food was given so as to keep the amount of nitrogen introduced perfectly constant; and a third series was made with non-nitrogenous food. These experiments showed distinctly an increased elimination of nitrogen in the period of rest after severe exercise, confirming Dr. Parke's former results, and supporting the statement of Liebig on this point, in opposition to that of Voit. Whether it was diminished during exercise or not was not clearly shown by the experiments. The non-nitrogenous diet for five days neither raised nor lowered the temperature in the rectum of the patient, but apparently did not effect the health, nor did it alter the frequency of the pulse; but the heart's action became weak, and the pulse soft. The experiments proved that force necessary for great muscular work can be obtained by the muscle from fat and starch, though changes in the nitrogenous constituents of the muscles also go on, which have, as one effect, an increased elimination of nitrogen after the cessation of the work.

ROMANCE AND REALITY.—Washington Irving has epitomized the strange incongruity of a graveyard in the midst of a great city, where the "waves of active life are beating against the very walls of the sepulchre;" but there are other sepulchres—even the sepulchre of the human heart—whence buried hopes sometimes come forth and present as strange a contrast to the unsentimental rush and whirl that environ them. Witness this mournful waif, picked up on one of our busiest thoroughfares:

"My eyes with tears is red and dim,
Cause he loves she and I loves him,
But they'll be better by-and-by,
When she 'cuts' him and he loves I."

Poor heart! She evidently thinks little of the price of pork, or the probabilities of a war with Spain.

An Italian newspaper laments that after the liberal subscriptions made there for a monument to Garibaldi, that agitator will not take the hint.

Christmas in the Danish Islands.

We found, writes a correspondent, that the Christmas holidays were celebrated in both islands in a rather peculiar manner by the colored people, and for the entire previous year from their most cherished anticipation, as then for more than a week they are completely exempt from labor, and devote the days with unparalleled ardor to the pleasure of dancing. They commenced at two o'clock on Christmas morning, while the stars were in the sky, to parade the streets in gangs numbering from twenty to a hundred, males and females, preceded by a drum, which is sometimes accompanied by an accordian and triangle, to the sounds of which they march or dance along, singing in chorus a shrill and monotonous refrain. When they think they have thus sufficiently exhibited themselves to admiring spectators, they adjourn to some house which they have hired, or part of a house which has been loaned for the purpose, and there trip the fantastic and generally bare toe with an untiring energy, only equaled by the surprising length of time they are able to continue the exercise. They frequently march or dance for days together with scarcely any cessation, and instances have been known of deaths from mere exhaustion and fatigue. Each party has a chosen queen, attired according to her own or collected means, who has always more or fewer maids of honor, in conformity to the importance of the crowd, one of whom incessantly rings a bell in front of her as they walk through the streets, while her train is held up by others, sometimes as many as six supporting her sable majesty's skirt. The royal robes are mostly of white muslin; but on New Year's Day, of which they think evea more than of Christmas, some of the town queens are gorgeous in silk and satin, and occasionally, by way of ostentatious ornament, will have sewed on the bosom of the dress bank-notes and gold doubloons, which are worn with very much the same pride as the insignias of an honored order are displayed by its members. Many of their dances were brought by their ancestors from Africa, and transmitted through generations of descendants with scarcely any change in the figures and motions, and always accompanied by the voice. Some are quite rude and primitive; others more intricate in their evolutions, and almost barbarous in effect, such as the "Bombala," having a curiously exciting influence on the performers; while one, the "Quelby," a sort of shawl dance, is graceful and even elegant.

Where Heaven Is.

M. Figuier, the French *savant*, has written a new work entitled "The To-morrow of Death," in which he is good enough to define the locality of Heaven, for the benefit of less enlightened mortals. He explains that the fluid which astronomers and naturalists call ether, begins at an elevation of 30 to 40 leagues (120 to 160 kilometers), above the earth, where the atmosphere terminates. It is a real fluid, a gas analogous to the air which surrounds us, but infinitely more rarified and thinner. It is distributed not only about the earth, but about the other planets. More than this, it is in all space; it fills the intervals which separate the planets. In fact, the planets, which, with their satellites, compose our solar world, move in ether. The comets also, in their immense journey through space, circulate in ether. The chemical composition of planetary ether is unknown. Astronomical phenomena have taught us that there is such a fluid, but nothing is known of its components. We may conclude, however, that ether can contain no oxygen, and we should not wonder if planetary ether were composed of hydrogen gas excessively rarefied; that is, of a gas extremely light of its own nature, and infinitely subtilized by the absence of all pressure; and of this fluid above our atmosphere, M. Figuier says:—

"It is heaven. There then, in the place commonly termed heaven, we fix the residence of super-human beings. In this matter we concur with the popular belief and prejudices, and we gladly establish this agreement. These prejudices, these misgivings, in many cases epitomize the wisdom and observations of an infinite number of human generations. A tradition which uniformly prevails in all countries has the weight of a scientific demonstration. Language and tradition agreeing, the most wide-spread modern religions—Christianity, Buddhism, and Mohammedanism—assigns to heaven the home of God's chosen people."

"And so," adds M. Figuier, "science, tradition, and religion join hands in this matter; and the holy priest who, attending the royal martyr on the revolutionary scaffold cried, 'Son of the holy St. Louis, ascend to Heaven,' uttered a veritable scientific truth."

Making Shoes.

In Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, where the Storm King rains, snows, thaws, or freezes a considerable portion of the year, the inhabitants naturally keep a vigilant look-out for their toes against forever-advancing Jack Frost, who is no respecter of persons. The inventive faculty of many active brains naturally runs upon shoes, and consequently they are frequently bringing out new devices for keeping feet dry and warm, and putting leather into forms that neither rip, leak, not wear out till the purchaser is out of sight.

Sewing by hand is an exploded idea in a town in which thirty thousand boots are manufactured in a single week. Of course those are designed for distant markets. Pegging has had its day, because they shrink in dry weather and drop out, leaving holes for wandering water to run in. But a desideratum has been achieved which puts all former devices for keeping soles and upper-leathers in contact. Neither waxed thread, wooden pins, iron nails, nor copper brads are employed. That is not all that is curious about the matter. A machine, small, compact, and strong, works automatically, as though it had an eye to business.

Instead of any former kind of fastener, the whole is doweled together with leather dowels. Sole-leather is rolled between huge cylinders till it is as compact as wood. Strips are then tucked into a hopper. From thence it is paid out, by either a crank or steam, cut into the shape of pegs, and at the same instant driven through all opposition, thus clinching every thing through which it passes. The sole of the shoe is perfectly flexible, the leather pins swell and hold on like a detective to a pickpocket. That is all, and the work, theoretically, will last forever.

A Trivial Cause for War.

There is an old saying which runs in this wise:—"Behold what a great fire a little spark kindleth." The "misunderstanding" between Prussia and Brazil seems to have been an illustration of this fact. A tavern brawl seems to be a trivial thing to cause trouble, if not war, between two great nations, and such is said to have been at the bottom of the matter. It appears that seven or eight Prussian officers, being in a coffee-house at Rio de Janeiro, got intoxicated and then got into a quarrel with some Brazilians. Hard words arose, a general fight ensued, and the Prussians, having ejected their opponents, went to work and smashed everything in the house. While this pastime was in progress the police arrived. The Prussians resisted the officers of the law, more fighting took place, wounds were given on both sides, and finally the beligerant foreigners were captured and taken to prison, where they were locked up like common vagrants. Among the prisoners is said to be a near relative of Prince Bismarck's, and the whole business looks very disagreeable. A diplomatic correspondence has been exchanged, and the prisoners have been set at liberty. But the report from Hamburgh that a German squadron was fitting out at Kiel for Brazilian waters, seems to be confirmed, and it is not impossible that serious complications will arise from an absurdly insignificant occasion.

HEAVY storms prevail all over the plains. There is much rain and snow here. The Mormons say it is the severest weather they have experienced for many years.

Winter Toilettes.

A New York fashion journal notices a few of the winter toilettes in that city.

One of the most elaborate toilettes is of blue, exquisitely bordered with an embroidery of white silk, with fringe of heavy silk and fine chenille combined. The corsage of the Louis XIV. style, postillions, closed at the throat with a deep frill of very beautiful point d'Aiguille lace, falling in a spiral knot over the faintest tint of rose crepe de chine. A fair young bride will perceive in the record to the bridal dress a tint of white, with the pink creaminess cast over it, as if from a glowing sunset gleaming upon a bank of newly fallen snow; trimmed with tulle frills at the edging of the antique sleeves. The corsage cut heart-shaped, filled in with misty folds of tulle; jasmin and orange blossoms for the coiffure, mingled with a lace of the most transparent texture, covered with tiny knots of chenille. The trained over-skirt was a mass of narrow ruffles, draped upon either side by large rosettes of silk and lace; a little apron of many wrinkles just reached the top of the four flounces of the under-skirt, and a broad sash of faintly-tinted faille finished this charming costume. The jewels were of large rose pearls—bracelet, earring, and pin. A very elegant dress, completed for a regal brunette, is of a warm, ruby gros grain; the long over-skirt of a shade lighter, is lashed at intervals with insertions of the darker shade, edged at each puff with narrow black Chantilly and passementerie. The basque has an extremely long Louis XVI. vest of dark ruby velvet, cut square, grandish with lace; a collar and sleeve of exquisite point d'Alencon. Jewels of rubies and diamond.

For evening toilettes flowers rival lace and the exquisite lightness of the marabout. Young ladies combine silk with the most diaphonous materials, rendering less obvious the heaviness of the former. For example, a dress of pearl-colored gros grain has three over-skirts of shaded rose color in tarletans, ruched with the same light texture; these skirts are long and gracefully looped at intervals with brilliant Austrain roses, mixed with white marabout, the same flowers forming the banquet for the neck and the hair. Another costume of water green, delicate as the foam-capped wave, was arranged with skirts and ruchings of misty tulle; broad puffs are placed on the upper skirt, separated by sprays of eglantine, with pale crystallized leaves. A straight scarf of the silk, covered with tulle, is gracefully draped over the breast and caught at the shoulder with a spray of the eglantine; coiffure of the same flowers.

A magnificent dress of white gros grain was literally covered with black lace, the dusky fabric so Spanish in its suggestiveness that, as one looks upon it, the vision of a dark-eyed donna arises as to its rightful owner. Still black lace is becoming to all, it shades and relieves the *trop prononce*, and yet lends a newer grace to the most faultlessly elegant.

A Terrible Tale.

A Mankato (Wisconsin) correspondent sends the following horrible tale: Last Summer a family consisting of husband, wife, and three little children, went from this city to live upon a claim situated near Heron Lake, in Noble County, and about fifteen miles miles from Okakens. On the 1st inst., the husband, who is given to drinking, started for Jackson ostensibly on business, but only to indulge in the pleasures of his devilish appetite. He left his wife and children of the open prairie, in the dead of the Winter, with scarce a stick of wood, and what is still more incredible, while she was daily expecting confinement. The day after he left came the fearful storm, and when that was expended the poor woman found herself without fuel. She knew that she could scarcely expect her husband home for several days, as it took that time generally for him to recover from his spree, and the conviction came to her that her family would soon freeze to death unless succor could be had from the neighbors, the nearest of whom was three miles distant. So this desperate woman, at that time in so delicate a condition that she might be confined to her bed, started out in the fierce cold for help. At least such is the supposition, for the next day some of the neighbors found her body, together with that of the new-born babe, stark stiff, in a snow bank, where she had fallen faint and perished. Horrified, they picked her up and carried her home, and here, horror upon horrors, they found the three little ones also frozen to death.

HOW THEY FOUND IT.—If we may believe a Detroit paper, a singular affair took place there recently. A man fell overboard in the river and was drowned. Attempts were made to find the body in vain. While the men were thus engaged, a buyer of junk stuff, an Italian, watched them for a while, and then proposed to get a loaf of baker's bread, put some quicksilver into one end, and seriously asserted that on being thrown into the water it would float to a point directly over the body, and then stand still. He was hooted at, and told to go about his junk-buying, not a man believing in the old woman's whim, as they termed it. The Italian went away, but returned in a little while, threw a loaf of bread into the river near where the man went off the dock, and in a moment called the attention of two men below to the fact that the loaf was spinning around like a top. It went partly under the wharf, stood still for a moment, and then went half a block down stream, turning right and left, and, as vouched for by five different men, stood nearly two minutes against the current, which was floating driftwood right by it. Very much excited, the Italian shouted to the searchers to drag over the spot. They were further down, and it was half an hour before they passed over the spot, but when they did it was to hook into the clothes of the drowned sailor, and he was hauled to the dock.

NOT SO FUNNY FOR THEM.—Not long since on a railroad train a young couple seated in a car were so affectionate that they could not keep it to themselves, much to the amusement of some and disgust of others of the passengers. The couple had attracted a good deal of attention on the passage by their affectionate kisses and embraces, and the conductor concluded to play a trick on them that would, perhaps, operate beneficially. He telegraphed ahead to the agent of a station to have a clergyman at the depot. The train came in, and the divine was prompt. When the train stopped, the minister entered the car and the conductor pointed out the couple, who still sat affectionately near each other. The clergyman advanced toward them, and in a clear, slow voice said: "Are you the couple who desire to be married?" They made no answer, but appeared to be utterly confused and dumbfounded, while the passengers, who now first knew of the trick, could not restrain their laughter. By-and-by the whistle sounded and the train left, carrying the lady and gentleman with it, while the minister stayed behind. The affair was explained to him the next day, and his fee paid as if he had performed the ceremony. During the rest of the trip, the couple were less affectionate.

FREEZING OF WATER.—In a recent communication to the the Academy of Sciences at Paris, M. Boussingault described some experiments, showing that water is not liable to freeze, irrespective of the degree of cold to which it is submitted, as long as it is not allowed to expand in order to change into ice. In one instance water inclosed in a strong steel tube was exposed to a temperature of —139° Centigrade without congelation. This, however, occurred instantaneously on unscrewing the steel end of the tube. The fluidity of the water was made manifest by small steel spheres which moved freely inside of the tube during the whole process, and would have been stopped by congelation.

HEAVY RISE.—It is atonishing to note the influences which cause real estate to rise and fall. The value of property of Monaco, which will be next year the only place in Europe where public gaming places will be opened, has so increased, the Prince of Monaco, she formerly asked $1,000,000 for his principality, now demands double that sum.

A Chapter on Coasting.

Henry Ward Beecher has written for the *Ledger* a chapter on coasting, in which he says:

Of all positions, the worst, the most inexcusable is what used to be called a *belly-plumper*, or when one lies down upon his sled, with head to the front, steering with the toes. The position is unsainly, the head is thrust forward and exposed to danger, and in case of need, the body is in a helpless position.

Next is the side-saddle posture, or when the boy sits curled up upon the rear of the sled, with one leg under him, and the other projected backward for a rudder.

The upright posture, with legs extended over the sides, or carried forward between, and even in front of the runners, is the true position for the bold boy of the sled. He has the use of his whole body, and the perfect control of his sled; and if he comes to harm, it must be set down to that large account of profit and loss which every spirited boy runs up.

Let no man revile the joys of ice-bound hills; or ridicule the task of tugging a heavy sled up the hill for the sake of rushing down again! Ah, yes—but that downward rush is ecstacy.

Clear the coast! Here goes! Right behind is a rival sled. Away we go, every yard quickening the rate; we come to the *jumpers*, and fly through the air as if shot from a catapult, and strike down again with a jar that makes the sled creak. Clear the coast! here we come! The boy draws aside. Neck and neck we go! glorious! There is a sturdy old farmer who never could find out what boys were made for. He won't get out of the way—not he! He shakes his cane as a warning. Too late—we strike him just above the ankles, and he goes over our heads like a shadow, but we hear him come down behind like a substance! In a second we are away and out of reach and hearing. Of course there is a fuss, and we are called up, and the master, with a twinkle in his eye, scolds us, and says we must say we are sorry; and everybody says served him right, the old curmudgeon, he ought to have kept out of the road; and we find ourselves the heroes of the school.

Then who will forget when our pretty cousin wanted to take a cruise on our sled, and how our sisters, too, were the guests of proudly polite boys, and how the courtesy of the hill-side was shown to the girls as ardently and disinterestedly as ever it could be in after life on more important occasions!

Perhaps the teacher was willing to show his condescension, and take passage on a double sled. Great was the hurrah raised for him, and ecstatic the yell universal, when, by a dexterous turn at the bottom of the hill, the sled went out from under him, and he made the few remaining yards of distance without help, and turned up quite like a heap of dirty snow!

The Gypsy Spider Dance in Madrid.

Mr. Adee's "Types of Castilian Vagrancy," in the January number of *Lippincott's Magazine*, contains this graphic little sketch:

A strolling band of gypsies have made their way to Madrid from their savory haunts afar among the orange groves and Moorish ruins of Andalusia. They have pitched their tents just outside the Arch of Carlos III, in the vicinity of the bull-shambles, and are now fixed for at least and at most a fortnight. They came to town with one eye to business, the other to thieving. But very picturesque and comely are they here and everywhere, singing and dancing and sitting among rocks. There are men and women—children in plenty, too, but they are left at home, wherever that may be. The men are habited in breeks, shirts, jackets, leggings, sashes and round porkpie hats, all of brilliant tints; the women in kirtles, waists, gay shawls and showy stockings, with their black, glossy tresses thrown back and decked with a bright ribbon or flower. The men have guitars and bandolins, the women castanets, which they rattle bravely. They are about to tread the mazy measures of the dance in concert. Away starts the music of guitar and castanet. Quick as lightning, the women, brown and beautiful, catch up their skirts between thumb and forefinger, and bound into a waltzing action sideways, without turning. Those of the men who have not instruments, caught by the infection, spring forward and join the women in the same wild movements. Clang go the guitars and bandolins, click the castanets. Swaying, stooping, gracefully keeping time with head and body, twisting, ogling, making at each other, gliding coquettishly out of reach, whirling dodging, now gently, now fiercely, with here hate, there fondness, and always the delicious rhythm of motion and music in it, those wild, handsome people personate all the mad infatuation of passion in its fruition. It is the terrible Tarantula, the spider dance, full of subtle poison to the sense.

DOGS AND SHEEP.—Dogs will worry sheep, for "'t is their nature to." No dog, after he has once enjoyed the exquisite satisfaction of killing and eating his own mutton, is to be trusted. He may pretend to be reformed; he may carry himself like a Quaker in the very presence of the fleecy flock; for all that, he is all the time intent upon another taste, and is merely watching for an opportunity. This year, in Berkshire County, Mass., these wicked dogs have murdered sheep valued at $1,100 for which the County Commissioners must pay, out of a fund raised by licence taken out by dog-owners. There are several ways, however, of convincing dogs that sheep-stealing is a losing business. A halter is extremely persuasive; so is a well-loaded gun; so is strychnine, well rubbed into cold mutton. But what would Mr. Bergh say to these? If he loves the dogs as well as the sheep, he must live in a state of chronic moral bother.

THE WOMAN QUESTION.—Gov. Campbell, of Wyoming, in his message vetoing the act to repeal the Woman's Suffrage law of the Territory, says: "In this Territory women have manifested for its highest interest a devotion strong, ardent, and intelligent. They have brought to public affairs a clearness of understanding and soundness of judgment which, considering their exclusion hitherto from practical participation in political agitation and movements, are worthy of the greatest admiration, and above all praise. The conscience of women in all things is more discriminating and sensitive than that of men; their sense of justice not compromising or time-serving, but pure and exacting; their love of order not spasmodic or sentimental merely, but springing from the heart. All these, the better conscience, the exalted sense of justice, and the abiding love of order, have been made by the enfranchisement of women to contribute to the good government and well-being of our Territory."

THE DONNER FATALITY.—The heavy fall of snow in the West recalls the sad affair at Donner Lake in 1849. A large party from Illinois for California stopped over night with the intention of sending forward some explorers to see if it were possible to scale the mountains here, or if it would be necessary to turn back a few hundred miles. The next morning, instead of being able to proceed, they found themselves literally hemmed in by the snow and unable to move in any direction. They remained here, subsisting upon their cattle, roots of trees, and, finally, upon each other, till but four of the large company of emigrants lived to relate the incredible hardships and the horrid strait into which they were driven of eating one another.

HAVE YOU ANY MONEY TO LOSE?—If so, says a New York paper, contrive to walk up Broadway and slip. You will at once be taken in hand by a gentleman deeply interested in your welfare. He will express regret at the misfortune of your fall, and even go so far as to brush the snow from your soiled garments, and during the operation will ease you of your pocket-book, if not of your watch. Such light-fingered gentry are now prowling about our principal thoroughfare seeking whom they may devour.

THE Spanish Minister of the Colonies has announced his intention to reorganize the Havana Volunteers.

War With Spain.

The Spanish Journal, *El Cronisto*, of New York, discusses at length the result of a war between the United States and Spain. It says that nearly one-half of the whole commerce of this country with the New World comes from the Spanish Antilles, and that this trade figures up $82,000,000. If to this is added the instantaneous depreciation of paper money, which would be unprecedented, especially in view of the alarm which would seize upon the commercial men at the prospect of a naval war, and we should find, it says, that the loss of $82,000,000 would be the smallest item in the bill of losses for this country.

The paper concludes its article as follows: Three frigates, with three other wooden, and eight or ten smaller ones, would blockade effectually Boston, New York and Philadelphia, and there being no marine strength here sufficient to raise such a blockade, it would be easy to see what would be the immediate consequence, and at the same time how the country had been brought to such extremity by the folly of the journalists.

And if two corsairs, with three of our ordinary war ships, should begin to scour the American coasts of the Atlantic, burning down towns and seizing upon everything floating an American flag, we are inclined to think that the bumbugging idea of getting ready in ten or twelve months (as soon as anything could be done), would not prevent the immediate catastrophe that would follow, nor the ulterior consequences, gloomy as they would be, which this country would experience for many years.

As Spain has a Mediterranean coast and holds the Canaries (which is the natural route to the Strait), and as our ports in Calabria are not far from the coaling stations of England and France, and as we hold the Phillippines on the East India coast, the Cape of Good Hope, Fernando Po, Cisco, and Andabon (all of which are strategic points, and are our exclusive property), we say we should be happy (if it would please the American press to tell us), to know how the shipping of this country, whether commercial or naval, could escape the clutches of Spanish men-of-war.

To these considerations may be added the further fact: the ill-will of the Southern States towards the Yankees, which would be evidenced at the first shock of war; then let these journals say what would become of the great American nation in a few months, and whether or not it would not be compelled on bended knees to sue for a cessation of the war to which we are daily being provoked.

We should add that the American navy consists of forty-seven vessels, and of those not one can withstand a tempest or is fitted for a combat (according to report of Secretary of Navy last year); while the Spanish navy numbers 157 war steamers of the best kind, all of which are nearly new, and most of which have been tried in combats, and passed successfully through tempests.

The Cuban Massacre.

Among the papers sent to Congress by the President, is a letter from Vice-Consul-General Hall to Assistant Secretary of State Davis, dated November 28, giving a circumstantial account of the alleged desecration of the grave of Castanon, the Key West martyr, as he was held to be by a portion of the Peninsular population. The medical students, he says, did not break, but merely made a few scratches with a diamond upon the glass plate that encloses the niche, and removed or destroyed the wreath and replaced it with one of their own selection. The government was utterly powerless and thoroughly intimidated by the volunteers, and was finally obliged to compromise with them by ordering a drumhead court-martial to try the prisoners. It was found necessary, to prevent a more serious conflict, that some at least of the young men should be sacrificed. The court-martial, composed of equal numbers of regular and volunteer officers, commenced at 2 o'clock in the morning, and at noon the sentences were given out. The execution took place 5 in the afternoon, up to which hour the volunteers kept up their demonstrations before the prison and the palace. Through out the whole of this affair the government displayed its utter helplessness in dealing with such emergencies. The regular force at its command was insignificant, while that of the volunteers was large, readily concentrated, and, as in this instance, when nearly unanimous of purpose, over-powering. Mr. Hall concludes by saying that during the commotion great alarm prevailed among the Cubans and not a little among foreigners. There were well-founded apprehensions that a general massacre of Cubans was intended, and to this possibly may be attributed one of the motives for a compromise with the volunteers and the sacrifice of the young men.

The International Platform.

Many of our readers have no doubt been in a quandary, as to the platform of the "Internationals." An officer of the society in New York gives a city paper, a synopsis of this platform, as follows:

1. The total abolition of all class rule and all class privileges.
2. Complete political and social equality for both sexes.
3. Nationalization of the land, and of all the instruments of production.
4. A reduction of the hours of labor, so as to allow more time for improvement and recreation.
5. Education to be undertaken by the State—to be obligatory, gratuitous, and secular.
6. Religion to be ignored, as being a speculative subject concerning the individual. No religious differences or creed to be recognized.
7. The substitution of a direct system of taxation, based upon property, instead of the present system of levying taxation upon industry; the taxation to be progressive.
8. The abolition of the standing army, as being a provocative to war.
9. The adoption of the principal of associative production, with a view to the complete supercession of the present system of capitalist production.

TAKING THE VEIL.—In New York the solemn ceremonies of a religious "profession" were performed in a chapel of the Sisters of Charity. The occasion was that of a young lady taking upon herself the Order of Mercy. At the commencement of the service the novice prostrated herself at the foot of the high altar, while a choir of nuns chanted the Litany of the Saints in her behalf. At the communion she arose and slowly ascended the altar steps. On reaching the platform upon which the priest stands she again knelt and devoutly prepared herself for the reception of the holy sacrament and the taking of the three religious vows—chastity, voluntary poverty and obedience. The vows being taken—the vows which are believed to be perpetually binding—the professed nun resumed her position at the foot of the altar and again prostrated herself, while the choir chanted a solemn and appropriate hymn. The hymn being finished she arose, and accompanied by several sisters, went into the sacristy, where she was divested of all her adornments, to don the humble habit and cowl of a Sister of Charity. The ceremony was conducted by three priests.

In the Dark.

An accident at the gas works in New York left the portion of the city between 34th and 79th streets entirely in the dark during Holiday season. By this accident thirteen thousand householders were compelled to burn candles or oil at their holiday festivals. In the district are nearly one hundred churches which were lighted by candles during the week. In the stores candles, were struck round in the windows in all sorts of hastily improvised candlesticks, such as old bottles, pieces of board with holes bored through, potatoes and turnips cut in half, the flat side of the vegetable forming the base, while a hole rudely scooped in the round part received the candle. That portion of the city locked gloomy enough.

A Western journal offers this inducement: "All subscribers paying in advance will be entitled to a first-class obituary notice in case of death."

The Binghampton Dotheboy's Hall.

The Committee employed in investigating the alleged cruelties committed at the Susquehanna Valley Home for Children, near Binghampton, N. Y., by Superintendent Van Epps, have made public their report, concerning the Superintendent and Board of Managers. According to the evidence given at the investigation, boys and girls at the Home have been stripped naked, then taken in a damp and chilly cellar, called the bathroom, and subjected to a cold bath, by being plunged into the water and having it dashed over them from pails. Sometimes smart-weed switches have been used upon them while in the bath. This van Epps called, "healthful as well as disciplinary." By this man's system, the children, after praying in concert at the foot of their beds, are put to bed by one another, Van Epps leaving them after performing the pious duty of listening to their prayers. The larger boys undressed the smaller ones who could not undress themselves. No adult was left in charge of them, as in case of sickness they were compelled to help themselves as best they might. They were not permitted to have a drink of water from supper—4 o'clock—until the next morning. Their food was measured out to them, and no child dared ask "for more," none of them possessing the assurance of Oliver Twist. The food was course and common, and, as Van Epps said, "not what he would give to boarding-school children." The sanitary condition of the Home is reported good, and the arrangement of the beds, the vent