Fear Not.

Men may frown, and men may scoff—
Fear not!
If you cast all weakness off,
Taking sides with Right and Truth,
Victory will come forsooth—
Fear not!

Life is not all sunny skies—
Fear not!
Often in the dark cloud lies
Bright at sunshine. Ill is good
Oft, when rightly understood—
Fear not!

Proudest monuments are those—
Fear not!
Which from noble actions rose;
All brave men may build them high,
Crowned with flowers that never die—
Fear not!

Courage is the good man's shield—
Fear not!
Cowardice can never yield
Honors which we all would wear;
Cowardice begets despair—
Fear not!

Shun the evil, seek the right—
Fear not!
Truth is honor, truth is might;
Firmly stand by all that's true;
Scorn the false. In all you do,
Fear not!

Fear was never made for those—
Fear not!
Who the wrong and false oppose;
He who acts thus wins the prize,
Life immortal in the skies—
Fear not!

Farm, Garden and Household.

GOOD WASH FOR THE TEETH.—Dissolve two ounces of borax in three pints of boiling water, and before it is cold, add one tablespoonful of spirits of camphor, and bottle for use. A teaspoonful of this mixture, mixed with an equal quantity of tepid water, and applied daily with a soft brush, preserves and beautifies the teeth, extirpates all tartarous adhesion, arrests decay, induces a healthy action of the gums, and makes them look pearly white.

HOW TO PRESERVE THE HAIR.—The best way to preserve it is to wash the scalp often and thoroughly with water, drying with a towel. Oils, pomades, etc., clog the pores of the scalp and prevent the healthy growth of the hair. Keep the head well *ventilated*; if the hat is close, raise it often and let in fresh air; never wear the hat indoor. The ladies, notwithstanding they wear long hair (which is more likely to fall out), seldom are bald-headed. Their heads are not kept closely covered. In sleeping, do not cover the head with a nightcap.

MEAT FOR FOWLS IN WINTER.—Nature has provided for wild birds an abundance of easily digested food at the time they need it most, for when nesting, at the beginning of warm weather, the army of insects that keeps pace with the new vegetation supplies every element needed in the formation of eggs. As hens, whether wild or domesticated, are no exception to the general law, and their laying depends very much on the amount of animal food they eat, and when the ground is frozen, or when they are kept shut up either in Summer or Winter, they must be given butcher's meat of some kind. Calves' plucks, and the plucks of sheep and lambs, with the hearts and livers attached, are the best for the purpose. The mode of preparation is important. We have seen such thrown whole and uncooked into the poultry yard; but there is much waste, because the firmer tissues cannot be pecked to pieces so as to be swallowed by the fowls, and cats, dogs and rats prey upon what is left overnight, besides raw meat makes hens quarrelsome among themselves. The proper way is to boil until tender, and run through a sausage machine, and the absence of bones facilitates the latter operation, on which account we do not procure calves' and beeves' heads when the plucks are to be had. If not convenient to use a mincing-machine, then take for a small quantity of meat an ordinary chopping-knife and wooden bowl, or for larger operations a box, such as is used in mixing cut feed for horses, and a spade with a good steel blade ground to a keen edge. After chopping add to the mass the liquor in which it was boiled, thickened with meal and seasoned with cayenne and salt, and feed warm. If it is too much trouble to provide for your fowls in Winter an equivalent for insect forage, then give only grain; but expect to procure your eggs of somebody else who makes an artificial Summer for his poultry as to diet, and, as far as possible, temperature also.—*Hearth and Home.*

THE RUSSIAN QUESTION.—It seems that all is not harmonious with our cousin Russia. Prince Gortschakoff has written a letter to Minister Curtin relative to the treatment of Minister Catacazy by the United States Government. The document has made a decided sensation, inasmuch as it is supposed to have the sanction of the Czar, and foreshadows that Mr. Catacazy is to be sustained by his own Government. The letter is regarded by high officers as a direct and open insult to the President and Secretary of State, and is likely to lead to serious results. A letter says the country need not be surprised if Mr. Curtin, our Minister to Russia, is immediately ordered to demand his passport, and the Russian Charge d'Affaires here supplied with his in order that he may take his departure from the United States. This would break off all diplomatic intercourse with Russia, but such a step is said to have been under contemplation already by our authorities.—*N. Y. Paper.*

INFLUENCE OF A CHILD.—A gentleman lecturing in the neighborhood of London, said: "Everybody has influence, even that child," pointing to a little girl in her father's arms. "That's true," cried the man. At the close he said to the lecturer, "I beg your pardon, sir, but I could not help speaking. I was a drunkard; but as I did not like to go to the public house alone, I used to carry this child. As I approached the public house one night, hearing a great noise inside, she said: "'Don't go, father!'" "'Hold your tongue, child!'" "'Please father, don't go!'" "'Hold your tongue!'" I said. "Presently a big tear fell on my cheek. I could not go a step further, sir. I turned round and went home, and have never been in a public house since—thank God for it! I am now a happy man, sir, and this little girl has done it all; and when you said that even she had influence, I could not help saying, 'That's true, sir! All have influence.'"

KILLED BY A LION.—The Bolton correspondent of the London *Daily Eagle*, telegraphs under date of Jan. 3: "Last night Massarti, the lion-tamer at Mander's Menagerie, now exhibiting in this town, was torn to pieces by the lions with whom he was performing. He struck one of the lions on the nose, slipped on his feet and armless side, and one of the lions immediately seized him by the scalp, and tore it almost off. The other lion then sprang upon him, and tore off the flesh completely from the lower part of his back and thighs, and inflicted serious injuries upon his chest, breaking also his right and only arm. The excitement in the show was so intense that the slides dividing the cage could not be got in. One of the lions then dragged their victim from the separate compartment back to the infuriated group, who again set upon him. The partitions were at last got up. The mangled body of the lion-tamer was then recovered and taken to the infirmary, where, however, he died in ten minutes.

PHOTOGRAPHS.—A lady of Rochester, New York, had some pictures taken at the gallery of Mr. Fox, and then failed, as he avers, to pay for them. The irate photographer consequently displayed one of the pictures in front of his place, with a placard six inches square attached to it, whereon was described this agreeable legend: "One half-dozen photographs ordered by this very stylish young lady, and payment respectfully asked and insultingly refused." Miss Binnard, the lady, has now sued for libel the wayward Fox, and demands five thousand dollars by way of compensation.

A BEAUTIFUL young lady named Isabella Titus, on a visit to New York from Pepperill, Mass., committed suicide. She was found in her apartments lying on her side, grasping in her hand a small pistol. Blood was flowing from a wound in her forehead. No other cause is assigned for the act than temporary insanity produced by physical suffering.

Items of Interest.

THE Maryland Legislature elected the Hon. George R. Dennis as United States Senator.

A TELEGRAM from Bombay reports the loss of a vessel off Surat with 25 natives on board, all of whom were drowned.

DISPATCHES from Batavia report heavy floods in the Island of Java, which have done considerable damage to the crops.

THE Germans have imprisoned a principal of a French Academy because of the hostile manifestations of the students.

THE London *Lancet* thinks that during the coming Spring, or early in the Summer, cholera will reappear in Western Europe.

SEVEN boys attempted to cross the Acushnet River, at New Bedford, and four of them broke through the ice and were drowned.

VINCENT COLYER has resigned his position as Secretary of the Board of Indian Commissioners, though he is still a member of the Board.

ALDERMAN Glade, one of the Chicago aldermen charged with receiving bribes, was convicted. His counsel will appeal to the Supreme Court.

ESPARTERO has reconsidered his refusal of the title of Prince of Vergara, and has signified his acceptance of the honor offered him by the King.

SEVERAL large coal piles in Chicago have never been extinguished since the great fire, and still smoulder during the day and blaze forth at night.

THE great firms throughout England are one by one yielding to the demands of the workmen for a reduction in the hours of labors to 54 per week.

THE American Atlantic Cable Company will probably begin at an early day to lay a cable from the extremity of Long Island to a point on the English or Dutch coast.

THE Stock-growers Association of Colorado have reports showing that very few sheep or cattle were lost this Winter, although it has been the severest known in the Territory.

THE attempt to break the will of William Hussey, in Saco, Me., involving about $30,000, has resulted in the disagreement of the jury, one juror only sustaining the will.

ACCORDING to an authority, 7,000 voices that had been raised in petition to the New York Legislature taxing dogs, were afterward made to do duty as a petition to President Tyler for a bankrupt law.

THE receipts of grain at the five large ports on the lakes for 1871 were over 140,000,000 bushels. Of this amount, Buffalo took 67,000,000 bushels, while large quantities passed direct through the city.

IN the funeral procession of Wong-Hang-Soon, a wealthy Chinaman of San Francisco, there were five express wagons full of roasted pigs and chickens, to be deposited with the corpse in the sepulcher.

THE *Vienna Press* publishes the following from Odessa. "A terrible catastrophe has taken place in the Caspian Sea, the Russian screw steamer *Kama* having foundered, with all her passengers. She had on board twenty-eight large cannon and war materials to the value of 1,000,000 roubles."

One-Legged Miseries.

An ex-army officer, who lost a leg during the war, has been so impressed with the peculiarities of his situation and the novel adventures and incidents growing out of that situation that he has written a book on the subject, entitled "John Smith's Funny adventures on a Crutch." The author complains good-naturedly, that he is looked upon as public property, and almost bored to death by the many inquisitive strangers he meets in his travels.

"I can never," said he, "obtain a moment's rest in any public place. I no sooner take a seat in a car, restaurant or lecture-room than some one near me, whom I have never seen before, introduces himself with the stereotyped remark, 'I see you've met with a misfortune,' and on my assenting proceeds to ask the following questions:

"'Did you lose your limb in battle? What battle? Did a cannon-ball take it off? A rifle-ball, eh? Did it knock it clean off? Did it sever an artery? Did it hit the bone? Did it break it? Did you afterwards find the ball? Was it crushed out of shape? Did you fall when hit? Did you walk off the field? Who carried you off? Did you feel much pain? How long after you were wounded till it was amputated? Who performed the operation? Did you take chloroform? Did it put you to sleep? And didn't you feel the operation? Not even the sawing of the bone? Could not your limb have been saved? Was it taken off right where the wound was? Can you wear an artifical leg? Would the Government furnish it if you could? Do you draw a pension? How much? How old are you? What is your name? What did you do before the war? Don't you often wish you hadn't lost your leg? How does a person feel with a leg off? Does it ache when the weather changes? Would you rather lose a leg than an arm? I have heard persons say that an amputated limb still feels as if it were on; is that so? How do you account for that?'

"All these questions, dear public, I have answered thousands of times, and may have to answer thousands of times yet if my miserable existence is lengthened out for many years. Imagine how it must torment me. The same old questions, to me long since devoid of interest, I must meekly answer over and over again, day by day, hour by hour.

A California Wild Man.

One of the "wild men of the woods," of whose extraordinary exploits we have heard so many different versions, was recently killed in Livermore Valley, California, when in the act of leveling a Henry rifle at the head of a ranchman named Mullen. The wild man had been in the habit of making unexpected visits to the base of Monte Diablo, as it was supposed, for the purpose of taking the life of Mullen, for whom he had conceived a deadly hatred. In a moment of passion he had betrayed his intention to a negro who was in the employ of Mullen. The matter was then brought to the notice of the County Sheriff, but he did not look upon the case as of much importance, Mullen, however, succeeded in procuring a pair of handcuffs and a warrant of arrest. While on his way home he met the maniac, and shot him through the heart in self-defence. When the rags upon the body were searched, evidence was found which went to prove that the wretched creature had once borne the name of Peavy, and that he had been a resident of New England. To judge from the length of his hair and beard, which grew in straggled masses to his waist, he must have been in a wild state for many years. The Californian rural journalists will be the principal sufferers by his death, the vagaries of the poor fellow having furnished them for a long time with a basis for the major portion of their most astounding sensations.

A PARLOR GAME.—It is called the Game of degrees, and is a little puzzling at first, and requires rapid thinking; but, like the writing of double acrostics, when the mind once gets waked up to it the practice grows easy, and you invent so many things that you can hardly stop. It is played all up and down the room; every one goes to work at once and gives out his puzzle like a conundrum. The idea is to find a word which by some trick of pronunciation or spelling can be extended into another word, or perhaps two, which represent the three degrees of comparison—positive, comparative and superlative. Thus somebody says, "My positive is an evil habit, my comparative is better;" every one guesses, and the words turn out to be bet—better. Or, "My positive is always on top, my comparative is always fast, and my superlative is always successful—which on explanation turns out to be Dec(k)—Dexter—Dexterous.

THE annual import and consumption of foreign products in the United States now ranges from $450,000,000 to $550,000,000 in value, upon which import a tax is imposed yielding over $200,000,000 of customs revenue to the government.

Newspapers, Advertising and Business Thrift.

The Danbury *News*, in explanation of the suspension of its daily edition, says:

Danbury is not to-day in a condition, financially, to warrant our merchants advertising as they want to. Trade has been very much depressed in the past two months, and money has been very scarce.

This suggests a few remarks which properly fit into any series of considerations bearing upon the prosperity of business places. There are seasons of course (and prehaps Danbury is enjoying one of them) when merchants would, for the time being, make more money by shutting up shop entirely. But till they get ready to resort to this simple expedient of economy they are not ready to stop advertising. The question whether advertising pays in individual cases may be considered as settled. Men do not always make money by advertising, nor do they always make money by going into business. But we have never yet found a man who reasoned that going into business did not pay, even though nine out of ten men fail at one time or another. Advertising will not make a business remunerative, if other requisities are lacking, but to a properly conducted business it is as valuable an adjunct as an attractive sign, a good location, courteous clerks and honest dealing.

But there are some views of this matter which merchants to often do not consider, and of these we desire to speak. A little story will illustrate one of them. A certain merchant in this town who has often said he thought advertising did not pay, undertook the sale of a new style of goods. A neighbor of his inquired of him how he got along with it, and he said with considerable disgust that he had not been able to do anything; could not induce anybody to touch it. Shortly afterwards this neighbor took a lot of the same style of goods, advertised their merits liberally according to his custom, and soon started a brisk sale. Meeting his friend who never advertised, a few days after, he inquired how the goods went then. "Oh, first-rate," was the reply, "we sell hardly anything else." And yet we presume that to this day it has not occurred to his mind how much it paid him to have his neighbor advertise.

The principle suggested by this little true story has a broader application, and it was of this that the remark of the Danbury *News* more specially inspired us to speak. We take for granted that no New England community needs to be told of the value to it of a good newspaper. It is of advantage in the same way that good schools, roads, parks, churches, libraries and other good things are of advantage—all these going to make the place attractive and valuable both to its residents and to the surrounding country. And to be valuable it is not necessary that a newspaper should suit everybody, or be confessedly the best of its class, though it may be expected of every newspaper that it will be as good as it can afford to be. If it commands readers, if it reflects the energy and prosperity of its town, if it keeps up with the times—it matters very little whether its political or other opinions are generally agreed to. We mean, of course, as far as its value to the growth and business of the town is concerned. Were circumstances such that the newspapers of this city could not live here, but could live in Willimantic and should remove there, it would be safe to bet that in five years Norwich would only be spoken of after Willimantic. We say this to briefly illustrate our meaning, and think nobody will dispute it. But it is well known that newspapers are supported mainly by advertising—the papers costing the publisher double the sum he receives for them, or more. If, then, a newspapers is more valuable to a town, and is to be supported by advertising, is it not plain that it would be good policy for every merchant to do his fair share in this direction as a matter of public spirit?

Public spirit, however, is not the ground upon which a live newspaper bases its appeal for support. No more is party service. To be sure a political party will do well to see that its journals are handsomely supported, but a newspaper that is kept alive solely for party uses, and depends upon party funds for its breath, cannot be of great advantage to the public at large, for it is sure, sooner or later, to have the grip of some clique or faction about its throat. Yet as newspapers are not published simply for the amusement, as they come fairly within the list of commercial ventures, they make their appeal to the pockets of merchants on the mercenary argument also. We have already illustrated how one merchant advertising helped another's business. It is true as a rule, that all advertising helps the general business of a town, and thus adds an indirect value to the direct advantage of advertisements. It is also true that the more universally the merchants of any town or city advertise, the greater is this indirect benefit to the business of the town. This consideration of itself ought to be sufficient (and would be if thoroughly weighed,) to induce all merchants to advertise, even if they could not trace out the direct effects of their doing so.

There are two prominent reasons why universal advertising so greatly helps business. The newspaper is in fact, a picture of the business of a town. It goes day by day into hundreds of families and stores, in company with newspapers from other places. If now, the columns of the papers from one city are thronged with advertisements great and small, of all sorts of business, wholesale and retail, while those of another represent comparatively few advertisers, and do not have a line perhaps concerning some branches of business, it is evident what sort of impression must be produced upon the mind of the constant noticer of this difference. When he has any amount of goods, he instinctively starts for the place whose business is evidently so varied and extensive. And, in the second place, purchasers have come to have a suspicion that where there is little advertising there is little competition and high prices prevail. Singularly enough also, as a rule, it is the merchants who advertise least who complain most that people go to other towns to trade. The principles we have stated are so correct that the advertising columns of newspapers have become an unfailing index of the advantages of their towns as trading centres. And it must not be supposed that this universal advertising is the result of growth of business; on the contrary, it is the cause (all other modes of business effort being equal) and the attendant of it.

Thus much is suggested by the remark of our Danbury contemporary. If anything of it happens to be applicable to this city, now is a good time to reflect upon it; for just now Norwich has pressing need to call into play all sound principles of business policy to protect her future.—*Norwich, (Conn.,) Bulletin.*

AN UNEXPECTED STROKE OF DENTISTRY.—A gentleman visited a dentist recently, for the purpose of whiling away a half hour or so, and while there, a lady came in with a little girl, wanting a tooth or two drawn for the latter. The child cried when placed in the chair, and declared she would not have her teeth attended to unless the strange gentleman would have a tooth drawn first, and to please the little patient he took her place, with a wink at the doctor. The latter took two or three instruments, while the gentleman reclined in the chair, smilingly gazing at the ceiling for the assurance of the watching child, and after softly poking at two or three teeth, to the horror of the obliging gentleman, he commenced boring into his jaw where a tooth had once been extracted, and before he could offer a protest, a tremendous wrench brought out a large root, which the doctor held up to the child with a diabolical grin on his face. The gentleman rolled off the chair, and with an expression of unutterable pain in his drawn countenance, gazed moment reproachfully at his friend, and left the office. The little one did not seem to be greatly encouraged by the exhibition.—*San Francisco Bulletin.*

At the recent strike of the telegraph clerks in England, ten ladies employed in an office also struck, and what is more, they refused to go in again unless their male companions were also reinstated.

The Fishing Business.

A delegation of Massachusetts Fishermen, visited Washington and had an interview with the Government. One of the speakers, Mr. Phinney took the Barnstable District as a fair illustration for the points he desired to impress upon the committee. Before the late war there were only four districts in the United States which exceeded Barnstable in the extent of tonnage. These were New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and New Orleans. The district has a population of 32,800 and at present an enrolled and registered tonnage of 48,890 tons. It has 548 vessels engaged in the coasting and fishing trade, 335 of which are engaged in the fisheries alone. Tonnage is valued at $1,700,000, and the product of the fisheries last year is given at a valuation of $1,271,208. During and before the war there were ten shipyards in the districts, at which were manufactured vessels of from fifty to one thousand tons, and which employed more than two thousand laborers. Now all these yards are closed. Since the repeal of the fishing capacity in 1865 the business and tonnage have largely diminished, and since the same time the cod, mackerel, and whale fisheries have depreciated more than 50 per cent. Mr. Phinney contended that under the provisions of the treaty of Washington it would be impossible for the New England fishermen to compete successfully with the fishermen of the provinces, and nothing but ruin stares those he represents in the face. He showed while it costs about sixty dollars a ton to build a vessel in the United States, it cost only about thirty dollars a ton to build one in the provinces. This, with the difference of living, the cost to outfit, &c., made it impossible for American fishermen to contend with Canadian fishermen unless equal protection is extended to our own citizens. Unless relief is afforded in some form Mr. Phinney said that the fishermen of the Atlantic coast would have to leave their homes and take their vessels and engage in fishing in the provinces. This, he said, had already been done to some extent. But while presenting the above facts and arguing for protection, the delegation disclaimed any intention of antagonizing the administration, or of disturbing or opposing the treaty. They said all they wanted was to present a full statement of their grievances to the committee, in the hope that they would get some indemnification in the way of relief. The other arguments made were in support of what Mr. Phinney had said, and in accordance with his statements and propositions.

Madly in Love with Alexis.

The Omaha *Bee*, has the following singular story: Among the passengers on the regular train from St. Louis was a well-dressed and well-appearing lady, who made inquiries as to the whereabouts of the Grand Duke. On learning, she expressed a good deal of regret at not having arrived sooner, and so conducted herself as to excite inquiry. It was learned that she belongs in a small town near St. Louis, and is a maiden lady of some twenty-six Summers, who has conceived the singular infatuation that she is the destined wife of the Grand Duke Alexis. She attempted to take passage on the ducal train when it left St. Louis, but was prevented. She finally secured a ticket on the regular train, and arrived here only a few hours behind the one on which Alexis rode. She expressed a determination of going with him on his buffalo hunt, but failed in securing a seat in the Pullman cars. She belongs to a good family, and has plenty of means to carry out her whim of following his highness over the country, but so far her devotion has met with no reward, Alexis not deigning to bestow upon her a single glance. She is not discouraged however, but seems confident in the ultimate result of her mission, and, as it is leap-year, she does not have that modesty in pursuit of her object that is usual with maidens of an uncertain age. She first met the Duke at his reception in St. Louis, and to use a common phrase, she has been "struck" after him ever since. She says she will only desist when he shall make her the Grand Duchess. She remained at the Ninth street depot all the time Alexis was up-town, patiently waiting for his return. There is little doubt but she is a monomaniac upon this subject, and should be taken care of. The railroad autnorities will do their best to return her to St. Louis by the next train.

INSECURITY OF SUSPENSION BRIDGES.—An examination of the cables of the suspension bridge, which recently gave way at Pittsburg (says the *Manufacturer and Builder*) revealed a state of things which cannot fail to excite alarm in regard to the safety of other bridges supported by wires. The cables were originally composed of twenty strands of wires. In the one which broke only eleven wires remained at the point of fracture, the others having corroded away, and some of these had been reduced to the size of a knitting-needle. This bridge, which had stood fifteen years, was known to be unsafe, and was closed to public travel more than a month ago. But no one suspected that the wires composing the cable were so eaten away by corrosion as the examination showed them to be; and the question naturally arises whether the same destroying process may not be in progress in any other wire cables, as yet unsuspected of weakness.

HOW SALT LAKE CITY IS IRRIGATED.—The city of Salt Lake, which has a population of about fifteen thousand, is so laid out that the streets, at right angles with each other, coincide with the cardinal points of the compass; and of the one hundred and eighty blocks thus formed, each one contains a plot of ten acres, while this square is again subdivided by lines crossing at the centre, into four corner building-lots, or two and a quarter acres each. The streets are broad and without pavement. Between the carriage-way and the sidewalk is a shallow ditch filled with running water, which surrounds every block in the city, and serves to irrigate the gardens and lawns which are the charm of the town. This water is brought from the mountains and distributed at the highest point of the city during the season, and when winter approaches it is turned in another direction, to prevent the inconvenience of its freezing in the street.

THE MILK QUESTION.—An interesting quarrel has sprung up between the Milk Producers' Association, composed of Eastern Massachusetts farmers, and the contractors who supply the milkmen in Boston. As is usually the case with middle men, the contractors want all the profits and recently voted to pay the farmers only 45 instead of 50 cents per can of eight quarts, intending of course, that the consumers should continue to pay 72 cents a can; but the farmers declare that they will not agree to the reduction, and have voted that they will "withhold their milk sooner than submit to it." With the liberal margin which they have received, the contractors pocketed $807,500 last year, and the sympathy of the public is, as might be supposed, wholly with the farmers.

LONDON CABMEN.—The cabmen in London appear to be honest men. Two ladies hired a hansom to go a short distance, and, having arrived, tendered their driver the proper fare of a shilling. This the man declined, and, as they were alone, to avoid altercation, they gave him the extra sixpence he demanded. To their infinite amazement, in half an hour the cabman came back again, "regretting extremely having charged them too much, but having made inquiries and found he was in the wrong, he must beg to return the sixpence." The procedure is regarded as so extraordinary as to have formed the subject of comment by the entire London press; and probably so much fame was hardly ever gained before at so little cost.

VERY LIKE.—Somebody tells us that sailors are never so much at sea as when they are on shore. In this they are somewhat like hen-pecked husbands, who are never so much at home as when they are abroad.

A Meriden, Conn., gentleman abjured tobacco in all its forms last year, and thereby added to his fund $60, with which he bought his wife a New Year's present. Good boy.

A Human Monster.

A remarkable criminal has been arrested in France, the details of whose many crimes we glean from our foreign files. Joseph Lemettre was but eighteen years old when, in 1864, he was in service at the farm-house of Seiles, and had won confidence by his quiet conduct and regular habits, and since that date he is now believed to have perpetrated at least twenty-seven crimes, many of them of the deepest dye. In the Autumn of 1864 some stacks of beans, a house and shed, and, again, some farm-buildings, were on three distinct occasions burned down. No motive is assigned in these instances, but the accident of Lemettre having been seen near the spot, and afterwards denying it, threw on him grave suspicion, from which, however, he was protected by his general good character. Early in the next year the farm-house of the man who had suspected him was broken into, and an attempt was made to set it on fire. Lemettre's master then died, and the history passes over an interval of two years. Lemettre, however, seems to have remained in the service of his late master's widow, and when, in 1867, she was married to a connection of his own, and went to reside at a neighboring hamlet, he accompanied them. At the end of that year the course of outrages commenced, not to be again interrupted until Lemettre's apprehension. In September his fellow-servant was robbed of 620 francs. Shots were fired at his employers, and a box of powder was placed against the walls of their house. Lemettre now admits that he committed these outrages in order to frighten his master and mistress back to their old farm. The next year, 1868, was marked by a murderous assault on a brewer's carman as he was returning from Andreselles with some money for his employer. In the same year a widow, who lived alone at a farmhouse in Andreselles, and who had just received a sum of 1,200f., was aroused at night by a man demanding her money or her life; she was brutally stabbed, and her house partially robbed. Once more, in the same year, the house of the priest was entered during midnight mass and robbed of plate and money. The year 1869 opened with two robberies of money from the same fellow-servant who had been robbed in 1867. Lemettre, about this time, took a house in Andreselles. In the course of the Summer a young man was found murdered and robbed, on the evening after the fair, with his head close to the stable door of Lemettre's house. Suspicion fell upon the owner of a wine shop, who, however, was soon exonerated by being himself found murdered, with the same marks of brutality. The house had been robbed and attempts made to fire it. A fifth crime in this year was a burglary at a neighboring farmhouse. The year 1870 opened with the murder of a man who had denounced the existence of robbers in the neighborhood, and another burglary was committed. Lemettre was then absent from home for six months, serving in the Garde Mobile, and during his absence the crimes ceased. Immediately on his return, in April, 1871, three successive burglaries renewed the alarm of the neighborhood, and Lemettre began to be watched. He himself, however, felt sufficiently secure to get married, and to celebrate the occasion with a profuseness which aggravated the peasants' suspicion. At length he was observed creeping into a cure's house, and was captured in the act of robbery. His house being then searched, articles stolen in previous robberies were found in his possession, and he confessed to one of the worst of the murders.

Salt-Works on the Mediterranean.

A few words as to the salt-works on the shores of the Mediterranean may not be uninteresting. The water from the sea is brought during the Summer months into large basins, where it clears and concentrates its quality by evaporation, until the time arrives when it is *saturated*—that is, when it contains the largest quantity of salt that the water can keep in a state of dissolution. There is a curious phenomenon connected with this period; the surface of the water acquires a red tint, and exhales the odor of violets, which is thus accounted for. Many small organic beings, such as the little crustaceous branchiopodes and a globular microscopic vegetable, both of a red color, for the crustacean feeds on the latter, and, its body being transparent, the color of the food it swallows is visible, live in the salt wafer. As the evaporation proceeds, the density of the water in which they move increases, and the time comes when it is so considerable that they can no longer live in it, but rise to the surface in a thin tissue spread over the liquid, and form a rosy and perfumed bed. Then the workmen say: "The basin will now yield its salt." Many other matters are deposited besides salt, such as salt of magnesia, chalk, sodium, iron. When the early attempts were made, the existence of iodine and bromine were altogether unknown articles in chemistry; they have both played an important part is the progress of photography.

There was one drawback to the success of these salt-works which has been removed during the past few years, the evaporation being due to the season of the year, a warm or a cold Summer made the greatest difference, and long periods of rest often hindered the workmen. It is well known that heat is but a modification of force; and, wherever a machine can be worked, there is a source of heat, and, by means of applicances not difficult to modern mechanics, it can be transformed into a source of cold. When the question arose how the salt-pits could be regulated in these respects, it was known that powerful steam-engines of more than a hundred horse-power were used in India for the making of ice. In the London Exhibition of 1862, an economical and elegant machine of this kind was exhibited; this on a larger scale, was immediately employed and the temperature can now be lowered at the right moment for the production of sulphate of soda.—*Chamber's Journal.*

Benjamin Franklin.

Horace Greeley at the dedication of the Franklin statue in New York, said: If I were required to say for which of Franklin's achievements he deserved most and best of mankind, I should award the palm to his autobiography—so frank, so sunny, so irradiated by a brave, blithe, hearty, humanity. For if our fathers had not—largely by the aid of his counsel, his labors, his sacrifices—achieved their independence at the first effort, they would have tried it again and again until they did achieve it; if he had not made his immortal discovery of the identity of electricity with the lightning, that truth would nevertheless have at length been demonstrated; but if he had not so modestly and sweetly told us how to wrestle with poverty and compel opportunity, I do not know who beside would or could have done it so well. There is not to-day, there will not be in this nor in the next century, a friendless, humble orphan, working hard for naked daily bread, and glad to improve his leisure hours in the corner of a garret, whom that biography will not cheer and strengthen to fight the battle of life buoyantly and manfully. I wish some humane tract society would present a copy of it to every poor lad in the United States. But I must not detain you. Let me sum up the character of Franklin in the fewest words that will serve me. I love and revere him as a journeyman printer who was frugal and didn't drink; a *parvenu* who rose from want to competence, from obscurity to fame without losing his head; a statesman who did not crucify mankind with long-winded documents or speeches; a diplomatist who did not intrigue; a philosopher who never loved and an office-holder who didn't steal. So regarding him, I respond to your sentiment with "Honor to the memory of Franklin."

THE DEMOCRATIC PROGRAMME.—According to the New York *World*, it is understood that the National Democratic Executive Committee will not meet in Washington this Winter, but will postpone their session till after the Grant Convention at Philadelphia, when there will be ample time for all the elements of opposition to unite against the continuance of the present administration, and to call a national convention to nominate a Presidential opposition ticket. This view meets the approval of leading Democrats in Congress.

The Apportionment Bill.

AN ACT for the apportionment of Representatives to Congress among the several States of the United States, according to the ninth census.

That on and after the third day of March, 1873, the House of Representatives shall be composed of 243 members, to be apportioned among the several States in accordance with the provisions of this act; that is to say: To the State of Maine, 4; New Hampshire, 2; Vermont, 2; Massachusetts, 11; Rhode Island, 1; Connecticut, 3; New York, 28; New Jersey, 6; Pennsylvania, 22; Delaware, 1; Maryland, 5; Virginia, 8; North Carolina, 7; South Carolina, 4; Georgia, 8; Alabama, 6; Mississippi, 5; Louisiana, 5; Ohio, 17; Kentucky, 8; Tennessee, 8; Indiana, 11; Illinois, 16; Missouri, 11; Arkansas, 3; Michigan, 7; Florida, 1; Texas, 5; Iowa, 8; Wisconsin, 7; California, 4; Minnesota, 3; Oregon, 1; Kansas, 2; West Virginia, 3; Nevada, 1; Nebraska, 1. Provided that if after such apportionment shall have been made any new State shall be admitted into the Union, the Representative or Representatives, of such new State shall be added to the number of 243 herein limited.

SEC. 2. That in each State entitled under this law to more than one Representative, the number to which said States may be entitled in the Forty-third and each subsequent Congress, shall be elected by districts composed of contiguous territory and containing as nearly as practicable an equal number of inhabitants, and equal in number to the number of Representatives to which said States may be entitled in Congress, no one district electing more than one Representative. Provided that in the election of Representatives to the Forty-third Congress in any State which by this law is given an increased number of Representatives, the additional Representative or Representatives allowed to such State may be elected by the State at large, and the other Representatives to which the State is entitled by the districts as now prescribed by law in said State, unless the Legislature of said State shall otherwise provide before the time fixed by law for the election of Representatives therein.

SEC. 3. That the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in the year 1872 is hereby fixed and established as the day in each of the States and Territories of the United States for the election of Representatives and Delegates to the Forty-third Congress, and the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in every second year thereafter is hereby fixed and established as the day for the election in each of said States and Territories of Representatives and Delegates to the Congress commencing on the fourth day of March next thereafter. Provided that in any State in which by law the polls are held open more than one day for the election of State officers, the polls for the election of members of Congress in such State in A. D. 1872 shall be held the same length of time, beginning on the day above specified in this section.

SEC. 4. That if upon trial there shall be a failure to elect a Representative or Delegate in Congress in any State, district, or Territory, upon the day hereby fixed and established for such election, or if, after such election, a vacancy shall occur in any such State, district, or Territory, from death, resignation, or otherwise, an election shall be held to fill any vacancy caused by such failure, resignation, death, or otherwise, at such time as is or may be provided by law for filling vacancies in the State or Territory in which the same may occur.

SEC. 5. That no State shall be hereafter admitted to the Union without having the necessary population to entitle it to at least one Representative, according to the ratio of representation fixed by this bill. Should any State after the passage of this act deny or abridge the right of any of the male inhabitants of such State, being 21 years of age and citizens of the United States, to vote at any election named in the Constitution (article 14, section 1), except for participation in the rebellion or other crime, the number of Representatives apportioned in this act to such State shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens 21 years of age in such State.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

SENATE.

In the Senate a petition from Mrs. Mary Ann R. Lee, widow of the late General R. E. Lee, in refeence to the Arlington estate, was presented. She asks $300,000 for a clear title to the estate.

Senator Blair offered a resolution authorizing negotiations for the purchase of Cuba. Mr. Ramsey introduced the Postal Telegraph bill.

The Apportionment bill was reported and the Amnesty bill was debated in the Senate.

A new mining bill was passed.

A bill was introduced appropriating $100,000 to enable the President to carry out the provisions of the civil-service reform measures.

Senator Morton's bill for Congress to adjourn on the third Monday in May was taken up and debated.

The Chicago Relief bill was taken up, and passed as reported by the committee.

HOUSE.

Mr. Hale's bill to remit the duty on articles used in shipbuilding and repairing was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. Dawes presented a report on Boutwell's syndicate, describing the Secretary's Plan as legitimate. Mr. Farnsworth's resolution calling for an investigation into the affairs of the District of Columbia was adopted without a protest. An appropriation of $50,000 was made to defray the expenses of the ambassadors of Japan.

The House Apportionment bill, as reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee, is essentially changed. The total number of Representatives is cut down from 283 to 243. Under the apportionment thus made each of the New England States, except Connecticut, loses one member, and New York loses two.

Butler presented a petition from the women of the United States for a declaratory law to assure them the rights of suffrage, which was referred to the Judiciary committee.

The chairman of the Committee on Commerce reported a resolution asking that the committee be empowered to investigate the obstructions to commerce in every phase, which was passed.

ANSWERING LETTERS.—A great many people in this country are shamefully negligent about answering letters. Nothing is more annoying. In European countries it is regarded as the height of ill-breeding to allow a letter which needs a reply to go unanswered, and so it ought to be considered here. This is a point on which parents should lay great stress to their children. They should be taught to consider it as rude not to reply to a letter which needs attention as to hand a fork with the prong end.

The busiest people are generally those who are the most exact in this respect. The late Duke of Wellington, who, it will be admitted, had a good deal on his hands at different times of his life, replied to every letter, no matter from how humble a source. Once a clergyman who lived in a distant part of the kingdom wrote to his Grace, on whom neither he nor his parish had a shadow of claim, to beg for a subscription to build a church. By return of mail came back a letter from the Duke to the effect that he really could not see why in the world he should have been applied to for such an object; but the parson sold the letter as an autograph for £5, and put the Duke down for that amount among the subscribers.

MRS. WHARTON ACQUITTED.—The jury in the Wharton trial, at Anapolis, Md., after being out eighteen hours, brought in a verdict of "Not Guilty." The verdict created the wildest enthusiasm among the friends of the prisoner in the court-room. Mrs. W., was charged with poisoning Gen. Ketchum.

THE growing crop of grain in the blue-grass region, Kentucky, never looked better than it does this season.

Hanging of George Botts.

George Botts was hanged at Newark, New Jersey, on Friday January 26th, for the murder of Oliver S. Halstead, jr., in July last. Earnest efforts in his behalf were made by his friends in the Court of Appeals, and when near the point of death a vain plea was entered that the woman Wilson had been married to him, under the name of Julia Jenkins, seven years previous to the murder; but, beyond the granting of a brief reprieve, the judgment rendered at Newark by Judge Depue in November was sustained.

The murderer Botts was 42 years of age, of English parentage, but a resident of this country, since childhood. His physical strength was extraordinary, while intellectually he was wholly untutored, being unacquainted with even the rudimentary branches of knowledge. He had lived with the woman Wilson for several years, at irregular times, as her husband.

Oliver S. Halstead, jr., a member of an honored family, appeared first on the scene as Mrs. Wilson's lawyer, but he soon became so rashly infatuated with her that Botts heard of it, and frequently threatening to shoot Halstead. At about seven o'clock on the morning of July 1, 1871, Botts went to Mrs. Wilson's house, knowing Halstead to be there, and after breaking through two doors, shot and killed him. The disparity in the social position of the murderer and his victim, the latter having been a lawyer and politician of much notoriety, and the former a charcoal dealer, added to the excitement occasioned by the murder.

During the night preceding the execution, Botts was nervous and wakeful. His sister took leave of him during the evening, and his brother and the chaplain spent the night in his cell until 12.30. About that hour Botts expressed a wish to walk, and, accompanied by the warden and his spiritual adviser he promenaded the