A Valentine.

Love, is it winter?—
How can I tell,
While thou art near me,
Weaving thy spell?
Never was May-time so flowery and sweet,
Never was June so with Music complete,
Never did summer so linger and stay,
As now on this blessed Saint Valentine's Day.

Once—was it summer?—
How could I tell,
While thou wert absent
Sweet Clarbella?
Never was autumn so withered and sere,
Never was winter so cruel and drear,
Never was night-time so gloomy and gray,
As that morning in June when my hope died away.

Winters and summers
May come and may go;
Snow drifts may deepen
And roses may glow;
Rivers may sob in their prison of ice;
Brooklets with sparkle and song may entice;
Daisies may spangle the field as they will,
Or the heart of the year may be silent and still;
My water for ever is driven away,
And summer it is on this Valentine's Day!

Farm, Garden and Household.

THE COST OF DRAINING.—"G. W." wants information about the cost of underdraining. Draining by means of tiles, put four feet beneath the surface and forty feet apart, will cost from $35 to $50 per acre. The tiles, 40 cents per rod or less, according to the nature of ground, the tiles, 20 cents per rod, including the laying, and filling the ditches 10 cents, in all 80 cents.

CABBAGE-LOUSE.—A "Subscriber," Succasunna, N. Y., has had nearly all his turnips destroyed by lice, which consumed the leaves. How shall he destroy them? The best remedy is lime, slaked dry with water in which carbolic acid has been dissolved, one part, and dry air-slaked lime three parts; mix together and sprinkle on the leaves, while wet with dew. Where they are very numerous on a leaf, it is better to remove it and destroy them by burning.

CURE OF FLATULENCY.—A writer in the *English Mechanic*, in treating of the not unimportant subject of flatulency, says that of this there are two kinds. In health the stomach and intestines always contain a moderate quantity of gas that is nearly pure nitrogen. This appears to be secreted by the mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines, and, in excessive amount, is one of the most troublesome kinds of flatulence. The other kind arises from fermentation or putrefactive change of the food, and contains carbonic acid, and sometimes sulphuretted hydrogen, as well as nitrogen. Both these forms of flatulence are best treated by using pure vegetable charcoal finely powdered—taken in the first case with each meal, and in the second as soon as the symptoms appear. The dose may be a teaspoonful, and its use should be continued for some time. This will usually correct constipation as well as looseness of the bowels, beside relieving the disease itself.

FATTENING POULTRY.—Corn is in this country the obvious proper feed for fattening fowls. It makes flesh of fair quality. Oatmeal gives a better flavor but less fat. Corn should predominate, and be fed for the most part ground, because more can be digested than when it must all be reduced by a slow process in the gizzard. The latter is a perfect mill, but if employed too much the muscular exertion of working it takes something from the rate of fattening. The corn-meal should, for a few days, be thoroughly cooked, but the mess will soon pall upon the appetite, and then the meal may be merely scalded and finally fed raw, since fowls like it the best, and they should be induced to eat as much as possible. They also like variety; give an occasional feed of buckwheat corn, and wheat whole, and oats, which last should be ground and screened, so as to remove all the larger fragments of the hulls. Boiled potatoes and fresh cooked meat should be allowed sparingly, and every other day a little cayenne and salt must be added to the dough. Feed adult poultry, for fattening, three times a day and chickens four. It is especially necessary, when the days are short, to give the first food at the appearance of light, and the last as late as possible. After they have eaten to satiety, always remove what is left. Feed at stated hours, and always keep the feeding-trough clean and sweet. It is best to confine grown fowls in rather small coops, as exercise prevents fattening. If, however, individuals acquainted with each other are together, there is no gain in close quarters, for they become uneasy; and also half-grown chickens ought not to be shut up, but rather induced to eat so much that they will roam as little as possible, for if taken from their accustomed run they are apt to worry constantly. Shut out light from the coop, excepting at feeding time, to promote quietness. There should be no perches. Cover the floor with dried earth, often renewed.

Paris Fashions.

The dress walking suits most in vogue, just now, and which are seen every where and are worn by every one, are made of de laine—an inexpensive material, gracefully draped and trimmed, and even embroidered with soutache, color on color. These suits are always composed of a skirt more or less trimmed, an overskirt of the same material, or one harmonizing therewith, much longer behind than in front, almost as long, in fact, as the skirt, and looped very high on the hips, a vest basque, and a small double talma, or mantle with cape, either of de laine or of black, bluish-gray, or bottle green cloth.

Lingerie may be divided into two distinct classes; that for morning, and that for evening. The first is of plain linen; the second is of muslin embroidered and trimmed with lace, bias folds of crepe de chine, and moss fringe either of the same or a contrasting color. For evening lingerie there are flowing sleeves, and chemisettes with plastrons; or, instead of chemisettes, crepe de chine fichus trimmed with white lace are worn. Handkerchiefs are very small, and intended for the most part at the corners; those for evening are trimmed with open-work embroidery and wide lace. Notwithstanding this elegance, the handkerchief is not longer an object of display; it is not carried in the hand, but is left in the pocket.

CALIFORNIA HERDSMEN.—One of these herdsmen, says a writer, was seated cooking his little rashers of bacon in a frying-pan, over a bed of coals, while his shepherd-dog and two or three sheep looked on with a good appetite or wondering eyes. These herdsmen have strength and health in abundance. They speak to their sheep words of kindness; while their sheep hear them, know the sound of their voices, understand the meaning of their words, and look upon all these herdsmen as very proper guides. Where the sheep are, there you will find the men. All the season do these herdsmen stay with their flocks, guarding them by night and day. Not that one man does all this work uninterruptedly and alone, but each does his share. When tired, he rests, and another takes his place. So the sheep are never left without some one to defend them from wolves or such enemies as travel around this or other countries, looking for a chance to live without work, not caring what they steal only so it will support life.

COLLISION AT SEA.—The steamship Colorado, which sailed from Liverpool for New York, when just outside the Mersey, was run into with great violence by the steamer Arabian, inward bound. The Colorado received severe damages, and was run ashore to prevent her sinking in deep water with all on board. The Arabian, which was comparatively uninjured, rescued all the passengers of the Colorado, except five steerage passengers, who, it is supposed, jumped overboard in the panic which followed the shock of the collision, and were lost. The passengers were brought back to Liverpool, where they will be transferred to another steamer. The Colorado grounded off Crosby, at the mouth of the Mersey, where she lies full of water.

Discerning child (who has heard some remarks made by papa)—"Are you our new nurse?" Nurse—"Yes, dear." Child—"Well, then, I'm one of those boys who can only be managed by kindness, so you had better get some sponge-cake and oranges at once!"

Items of Interest.

Gov. REED, of Florida, has been impeached.

In the Big Cottonwood mining district a snow-slide killed three men.

THE 2,000 troops asked for by Captain General Valmaseda, have sailed from Cadiz to Cuba.

THE famous Mariposa estate was sold for $800,000, to the Mariposa Land and Mining Company.

MR. MEYER has been appointed Consul for the North-German Confederation at Philadelphia.

THIRTY-two citizens of Los Angeles, indicted for murder in the anti-Chinese riots, have pleaded not guilty.

JEFFREY CATTINO, of Chicago, the murderer of James Townsend, has been sentenced to imprisonment for life.

GEORGE W. WALKER, was sentenced at Evansville, Ind., to fourteen years' imprisonment for attempting rape last Fall.

THE bill to pay the Missouri State bonds in currency passed the Assembly over the Governor's veto by a vote of 71 to 45.

IT is reported from Hayti that an insurrection is expected to break out in that thrifty country as soon as the coffee is harvested.

THE action of the Supreme Court, in granting a new trial to Mrs. Fair, is severely commented on by the Press and Bar of California.

IT has been judicially decided in England, that a married woman living apart from her husband is entitled to vote at the municipal elections.

A child at Savannah received a cut under the chin in a fall, which continued to bleed in spite of every remedy, causing its death through exhaustion in ten days.

GEN. ANDERSON'S remains were brought to New York. They were deposited in a receiving-tomb until the vault at West Point was ready to receive them.

L. M. HILLS, a prominent and wealthy citizen of Amherst, Mass., and the largest manufacturer of palm-leaf hats in the country, died in that city, aged sixty-nine.

JOHN A. HANSON, convicted of forging the name of his father-in-law, John C. Clarke, to a $3,000 check, was sentenced at Boston to six years in the State Prison.

ALFRED DANA, of Alabama, a Methodist, after a theological controversy with his wife, who is a Catholic, beat her so severely with a brick, that her life is despaired of.

THE two Grafton, Mass., bank-robbers who were found guilty, were sentenced, Charles Gleason to fourteen years, and Daniel Dockerty to thirteen years in State prison.

THE body of a young man named Engel was found in one of the tar stills of the Eagle Oil Works, in Cleveland. It is believed that he entered the still to clean the tube, and was suffocated by the gas.

ADVICES from the Cape of Good Hope represent that the colony is crowded with strangers; that murders and robberies are of daily occurrence; and that the residents, whose patience was exhausted, have taken the law into their own hands, and are executing summary justice on offenders.

THE troops who were sent after the Apaches who captured two stages near Tuscon, Arizona, and murdered the drivers and passengers, found the mails cut up and destroyed. The troops buried the dead bodies of those who were murdered. They were unable to overtake the savages.

THE Dan Stough who, in a fit of rage caused by drink and jealousy, brutally stabbed and killed his wife at Richmond, Ky., was lynched. A number of masked men went to the jail, overpowered the Sheriff, took the keys from him, and marched out the murderer to a tree, upon which they hanged him.

THE *Presse*, of Vienna, Austria, in an article upon the claims of America before the arbitrators at Geneva, says England has probably learned that the opinion of the Board will be unfavorable to the conduct of that nation during the civil war in America, and fears the consequences of her course towards the United States.

THE New Orleans journals state that in that city there are six establishments, with an aggregate capital of $1,500,000, engaged in the manufacture of oil and oil cake from cotton seed—the product being one hundred thousand tons per annum. The oil is extensively used in the manufacture of soap, and the oil cake is shipped to the plantation for feeding cattle.

Mysterious Murder Confession.

The Erie *Dispatch* states that one John O'Connor, recently hung in Buffalo for a murder perpetrated there, confessed to another murder, O'Connor was for a number of years a resident of Erie County. He used to travel with the circuses, but latterly was employed as a farm laborer. He was married and lived at West Girard. O'Connor and Pierce were both feared by their neighbors. Last Fall, Pierce's wife died, and then there was a circumstance that excited the suspicions of many. She appeared to be in great mental distress, and when she knew death was approaching, she said she could not die without relieving her mind of a terrible thing. Pierce stood over her and prevented her from telling what it was, and so she died with the secret unrevealed.

After her burial Pierce went away and has not been seen about there since. John O'Connor's confession revealed the secret, though it did not reveal the victim. He said that Pierce and himself had murdered a stranger between Fairview and Girard, and disposed of the body. No one knew who he was and there never was any inquiry after him; but Pierce's wife had learned of the facts, and wanted to reveal them. Pierce has not been heard of since his wife's death, but it is rumored that he went to Canada.

WEARING SHOES.—"A curious observer in St. Louis has discovered that men and boys invariably run the heels of their boots and shoes over outwardly, while women and girls always run theirs over inwardly. Out of one hundred and forty-seven men and boys that passed the observer at a given point, this fact was true in every instance; out of sixty-seven women that passed, it was true in every instance but one." So long as girls and women wear high heels to their shoes, with a very small base, says the *Phrenological Journal*, their ankles will twist in or out, and the foot will roll over to one side. We often see on the streets a flock of school-girls, their short dresses permitting observation of their feet, and we are pained to notice that every ankle twists one way or the other; all of them being made more or less cripples for life.

"ADVERTISING PAYS."—Oftentimes it pays the printer better than it pays the merchant. It is a great mistake to suppose that all the advertising done, now-a-days, pays. It don't pay to tell the community with a flourish of trumpets that you have wares to sell, better, cheaper, and more of them than your neighbor in trade, when it's a lie, you know it! It don't pay to attract people to your place of business with promises of "low prices," "largest stock," "unparelleled advantages," when there is no truth in it! It *don't pay* to play upon the credulity of the public. "He who spits against the wind, spits in his own face," said the author of Poor Richard's Almanac, and so it is to-day. A fraud may succeed for a while, but wait and see—little and big, the whole troop of falsehoods, by-and-bye, will "come home to roost."—*Exchange.*

LEAP YEAR TACTICS.—The following are the leap year ball room regulations established by the ladies of St. Louis: "Gentlemen are expected to be as lady-like as possible, therefore: No gentleman will be allowed to enter the ball room except on the arm of his escort, or one of the managers; no gentleman can dance unless invited to do so by a lady; no gentleman can enter the supper room unless escorted by a lady; the lady managers will see that no gentleman is neglected.

The Complaint of the United States.

In the course of the long discussions between the United States and English governments, which followed the close of the insurrection, it became the duty of Mr. Adams acting for his government, to make a summary of the points which he maintained had been established by the United States. This he did in the following language, addressed to Earl Russell:

It was my wish to maintain—1. That the act of recognition by her Majesty's government of insurgents as belligerents on the high seas before they had a single vessel afloat was precipitate and unprecedented.

2. That it had the effect of creating these parties belligerents after the recognition, instead of merely acknowledging an existing fact.

3. That this creation has been since effected exclusively from the ports of her Majesty's kingdom and its dependencies, with the aid and co-operation of her Majesty's subjects.

4. That during the whole course of the struggle in America, of nearly four years in duration, there has been no appearance of the insurgents as a belligerent on the ocean excepting in the shape of British vessels, constructed, equipped, supplied, manned, and armed in the British ports.

5. That during the same period it has been the constant and persistent endeavor of my government to remonstrate in every possible form against the abuse of the neutrality of this kingdom, and to call upon her Majesty's government to exercise the necessary powers to put an effective stop to it.

6. That although the desire of her Majesty's ministers to exert themselves in the suppression of these abuses is freely acknowledged, the efforts which they made proved powerless, from the inefficiency of the law on which they relied, and from their absolute refusal, when solicited, to procure additional powers to attain the objects.

7. That, by reason of the failure to check this flagrant abuse of neutrality, the issue from British ports of a number of British vessels, with the aid of the recognition of their belligerent character in all the ports of her Majesty's dependencies around the globe, has resulted in the burning and destroying on the ocean of a large number of merchant vessels, and a very large amount of property belonging to the people of the United States.

8. That, in addition to this direct injury, the action of the indirect effect of driving from the sea a large portion of the commercial marine of the United States, and to a corresponding extent enlarging that of Great Britain, thus enabling one portion of the British people to derive an unjust advantage from the wrong committed on a friendly nation by another portion.

9. That the injuries thus received by a country which has meanwhile sedulously endeavored to perform all its obligations, owing to the imperfection of the legal means at hand to prevent them, as well as the unwillingness to seek for more stringent powers, are of so grave a nature as in reason and justice to constitute a valid claim for reparation and indemnification.

End of a Noted Criminal.

Charles Hildebrand, once a noted horse-thief, was hung by a mob at Hancock Station, in Pulaski County, Mo., on suspicion of being one of the gang of thieves who had been operating along the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. He was about thirty years of age. His mother lives a short distance from Dearborn, Michigan. For one of his years he had a bad reputation, arising, however, considerably from his practice of relating many terrible stories concerning himself, which, undoubtedly, had their origin only in his imagination. About five years since he stole a horse and buggy at Milwaukee, and subsequently he was traced to his mother's house by Superintendent Borgman and Detective Stadler, and was arrested by the latter, and taken back to Milwaukee, where he was convicted and sent to prison for several years.

Soon after being released he returned to his home. Last summer he came to this city, and soon got into trouble. He called at a jewelry establishment, and informed them that a plan had been set on foot to rob their store, and he offered, in consideration of a sum of money being paid him, to give information that would secure the robbers. As request ed, he "called again," and was turned over into the custody of an officer, and an effort was made to send him to prison as a vagrant, but he proved too "wise," and the authorities were reluctantly compelled to release him.

He, however, offered to leave the city on condition that he should be released, and he went. A week or so ago he turned up in St. Joseph, Mo., where he was incarcerated in the calaboose. On the day of his release he visited the editorial rooms of the *Herald* of that city and gave one of the reporters a highly-colored narrative of his career of crime, which was in substance the same that he gave to one of the newspapers here. He announced, as he did here, that he intended to reform, but the mob read his "biography" and concluded that his pretended reformation was a sham and took his life as before stated. That he was insane there is hardly room for doubt. While here his actions were more those of an escaped lunatic than anything else.—*Detroit Paper.*

A LARGE DECK EGG.—A Mr. Thornhill of Crumpsall Green, near Manchester, England, contributes to the Manchester *Guardian* the following story of an extraordinary sized duck's egg. He says he "recently found one of his ducks dead upon her nest. She had been ailing for some months, and could neither eat nor lay. The body was opened, and there was taken from it an egg, which we have seen, and which measures 18½ inches in its greatest circumference, 15½ inches at the smallest circumference, and its capacity is 2¼ pints of water. It contained three yolks, and after they had been drawn the shell weighed eight ounces. The duck was a cross between a Muscovy and an Aylesbury, and was of the ordinary size."

A MYSTERIOUS UNDERGROUND LAKE.—There was published some time ago an account of a lake on the Exeter estate, near Leesburg, Va., discovered by laborers who were digging a well there, and had gone some eighty feet below the surface. A descent was made to the lake recently, and the water was found to have disappeared from the part of it into which the well opened, and the place, from the imperfect light of burning shavings, looked like an immense chamber hollowed out of the solid rock. A party has been formed, who, as soon as the necessary torches can be obtained, will make a thorough exploration of this new wonder.

At Biddeford, Me., a great lottery of property, estimated to be worth $50,000, was to be drawn for the benefit of the charity fund of some Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. It wasn't drawn, however, for the simple reason that the Sheriff came and attached all the prizes, because they had not been paid for, much to the disgust of the ticket-holders.

At Auburn, N. J., a euchre party of four persons played 5,446 games in the last year. If the time of each game averaged five minutes, the total time wasted by the party would be 181⅓ days of ten hours each. Estimating the labor at the price of $2 a day, the party have expended $363 in one year, or about a dollar a day upon their little game.

BAD FOR LO.—Yesterday a squad of thirteen Indians came into our tent, and the oldest availed himself of the right of seniority by sitting down on our hot box-stove, which he mistook for a value. He was very much surprised.—*Cor. Chicago Post.*

A well known individual being seen in the streets of New York in a Shaker garb was asked by a friend, "What in the world sent you into that community?" The reply was, "Three good meals a day and plenty of warm clothing are not to be sneered at."

Ice Making in the Tropics.

The natives commence their preparations by making out a rectangular piece of ground 120 feet long by 20 broad, in an easterly and westerly direction, from which the soil is removed to the depth of two feet. This excavation is smoothed, and is allowed to remain exposed to the sun to dry, when rice straw in small sheaves is laid in an oblique direction in the hollow, with loose straw upon the top, to the depth of a foot and a half, leaving its surface half a foot below that of the ground. Numerous beds of this kind are formed, with narrow pathways between them, in which large earthen water-jars are sunk in the ground for the convenience of having water near, to fill the shallow unglazed earthen vessels in which it is to be frozen. These dishes are nine inches in diameter at the top, diminishing to four and three-tenth inches at the bottom, one and three-tenth inches deep, and three-tenths of an inch in thickness, and are so porous as to become moist throughout when water is put into them.

During the day the loose straw in the beds above the sheaves is occasionally turned up, so that the whole may be kept dry, and the water-jars between the beds are filled with soft pure water from the neighboring pools. Toward evening the shallow earthen dishes are arranged in rows upon the straw, and by means of small earthen pots, tied to the extremities of long bamboo rods, each is filled about a third with water. The quantity, however, varies according to the expectations of ice—which is known by the clearness of the sky, and the steadiness with which the wind blows from the north-north-west. When favorable, about eight ounces of water is put into each dish, and when less is expected, from two to four ounces is the usual quantity; but in all cases, more water is put into the dishes nearest the western end of the beds, as the sun first falls on that part, and the ice is thus more easily removed, from its solution being quicker.

There are about 4,590 plates in each of the beds last made, and if we allow five ounces for each dish, which presents a surface of about four inches square, there will be an aggregate of 259 gallons, and surface of 1,530 square feet of water in each bed.

In the cold season, when the temperature of the air at the ice-fields is under 50° Fahrenheit, and there are gentle airs from the northern and western direction, ice forms in the course of the night in each of the shallow dishes. Persons are stationed to observe when a small film appears upon the water in the dishes, when the contents of several are mixed together, and thrown over the other dishes. This operation increases the congealing process; as a state of calmness has been discovered by the native to diminish the quantity of ice produced. When the sky is quite clear, with gentle steady airs from the north-north-west, which proceed from the hills of considerable elevation near Bheerboom, about one hundred miles from Hooghly, the freezing commences before or about midnight, and continues to advance until morning, when the thickest ice is formed. I have seen it seven-tenths of an inch in thickness, and in a few very favorable nights the whole of the water is frozen, when it is called by the natives solid ice. When it commences to congeal between 4 and three o'clock in the morning, thinner ice is executed, called paper-ice; and when about four or five o'clock in the morning the thinnest is obtained, called flower-ice.

Upward of 250 persons, of all ages, are actively employed in securing the ice for some hours every morning that ice is procured, and this forms one of the most animated scenes to be witnessed in Bengal. In a favorable night upward of ten hundred weight of ice will be obtained from one bed, and from twenty beds upward of ten tons.

When the wind attains a southerly or easterly direction, no ice is formed, from its not being sufficiently dry; not even though the temperature of the air be lower than when it is made with the wind more from a northern or western point. The north-northwest is the most favorable direction of wind for making ice, and this diminishes in power as it approaches the due north or west. In the latter case more latitude is allowed than from the north-northwest to the north. So great is the influence of the direction of wind on the ice, that when it changes in course of a night from north-northwest to a less favorable direction, the change not only prevents the formation of more ice, but dissolves what may have been formed. On such occasions a mist is seen hovering over the ice-beds, from the moisture given them, and the quantity condensed by the cold wind. A mist in like manner forms over deep tanks during favorable nights for making ice.

Another important circumstance in the production of ice is the amount of wind. When it approaches a breeze no ice is formed. This is explained by such rapid currents of air removing the cold air, before any accumulation of ice has taken place in the ice beds. It is for these reasons that the thickest ice is expected when during the day a breeze has blown from the north-west which thoroughly dries the ground.—*Nature.*

The Alabama Claims.

In the English House of Commons, Mr. Disraeli called the attention of the House to the paragraph of the Royal speech referring to the Alabama claims. He admonished at some length upon the Treaty of Washington, for the faults of which he blamed the Foreign Secretary, Earl Granville, and the Premier, Mr. Gladstone. In view of the developments which had been made by the assemblage of the arbitrators at Geneva, Mr. Disraeli wanted to know why the Government was exultant over the edification it had given to Parliament on the subject. The Royal speech was signally unsatisfactory, and showed in his opinion that the Government still lacked a proper appreciation of the gravity of the question at issue between England and the United States. The American claims were greater than those which would follow a total conquest—they were preposterous and impractical, and if admitted would be fatal to the power and honor of England. Yet, said Mr. Disraeli sneeringly, the whole subject is disposed of in one brief paragraph of the Royal speech. Mr. Gladstone in reply said the Treaty of Washington itself shows that England is ready to make every concession short of national honor to establish friendly relations with America, and to set an example to be followed by other nations henceforth. The Government, said the Premier, is ready to explain everything in connection with the treaty, but it will not admit that it has unwittingly made a mistake. The paragraph in the treaty is the only fair and unmistakable interpretation of the treaty. He could, if he desired, refer to the preposterous character of the American demands, which of itself proved their absurdity, for they were such as no people in the last extremity of war, or in the lowest depths of national misfortune, with the spirit of the people of England in their hearts, would ever submit to. [Cheers.] Mr. Gladstone concluded by saying the Government would maintain the position it had taken firmly, though in a friendly manner.

MARRIAGE.—In England, until the time of Cromwell, which extended from the year 1650 to his death in 1658, marriage was a religious institution, having been so held since the earliest days of Christianity. Under the Roman Empire it was simply a civil contract; hence we read of men "putting away" their wives, as if they were pieces of furniture, whose old fashion, or bad fashion, did not exactly please the fancy. When the English Republic fell to pieces, and the Stuarts were restored in 1660, marriage again was regarded as a legal ordinance. Forty years ago it was enacted that, after the will of the participant parties, it might be a civil contract or a religious right. The Catholics, regarding it as sacrament, do not recognize its merely civil character.

"Mother," said a little boy, "I've got a bad headache, and a sore throat, too." "Well, sonny, you shall have some medicine." "It's no matter, ma; I've got 'em fast enough, but they don't hurt me!"

The Alligator at Home.

The Panama *Star and Herald* contains the following cheerful gossip about alligators: The sailor hates a shark and calls him a sea lawyer, in a landsman's eye the alligator is held in similar estimation, and through same mistake in the natural history of the ancients, a woman's tears have been in some cases compared to those of the crocodile. The alligator is found in almost all the rivers that empty into the bay of Panama, and is the scourge of all the cattle farms on their banks. Cattle, horses, dogs, deer and all other mammalia which come to the river to drink are liable to be seized by the nose, dragged below water and eaten in a quiet place among the mangrove swamps. There are certain fording-places in some of the rivers between here and Chiriqui, where every precaution is necessary when driving cattle or horses across, that the alligator does not get his share. About five years ago there came an epidemic among the alligator tribe of our rivers, which carried off great numbers of them. They were to be found floating dead everywhere, from what cause we know not, unless from the operation of some Darwinian 'law of selection.' However there are plenty of them to the fore, and any one fond of trying the penetrating powers of a rifle on their scales has only to take a boat and enter the Rio Grande, in the neighborhood of Panama.

We have seen the African species worshiped as a god on the west coast of Africa. The priest fed him every day with white chickens, for which he came to the edge of the little lagoon in which he was kept with regularity and good temper. There was one which lived in the unfilled-up lagoon of Aspinwall for more than seven years. He kept himself in good condition with the stray pigs and dogs that ventured near enough for him to seize, so much so that he left human beings alone, and was looked on as one of the regular inhabitants of the place. At night he would come out of the water, and take a short nap on a small railway bridge, much to the discomfort of 'drouthy railway cronie' going home by that road to bed. There was one in particular, who did not see very clear, who happened to stumble over what he took to be a log lying on the bridge; but before he could gather himself up, the log, or rather, the alligator, lifted his tail and lent him a whack somewhere about his back, and he took to running, and with a shout of fear made his landlady quickly open the door.

One of the engineers on the railroad informed us that at night he often meets alligators on the line; although the train going about ten miles an hour, there was one that kept ahead of it for some time, until he made a spring into a swamp, so that whoever trusts to the common idea that it is easy to outrun one of these reptiles if he took it into his head to give chase, had better not keep on a straight line. The Aspinwall aligator above mentioned might have lived to a good old age, but he had the misfortune to try his teeth on a valuable terrier dog, which led to reprisals and the owner's revenge, which ended by his being entrapped and—sent the way of all flesh.

As a means of offence as well as defence the tail seems to be a useful weapon. There was an old colored man washing his clothes sitting on the trunk of a fallen tree just on the edge of a swamp lagoon at the port of Chiriqui; an alligator in the muddy stream swam to where he was under cover of the water, and with a sudden blow of the tail knocked the old man into the stream and seized him by one knee. He had the presence of mind to insert his thumb into one of the alligator's eyes, with which, and the assistance of neighbors attracted by his cries the reptile let go and the old man was dragged on shore, with a row of teeth punctures on each side of the knee-joint. The surgeon who examined him found a tooth had been left in each wound. Mortification took place and the old man died.

A Lively Bear Fight.

The Williamsport (Penn.) *Gazette* tells the following: "A gentleman reached Williamsport from a 'logging camp' in Potter County, where he has been for five weeks past, who relates the particulars of an exciting encounter with an old bear and two cubs. It appears that a man named Jonas Elmaker and his wife, had made a small clearing in Jackson township. They have a comfortable log-cabin, a small barn, several head of cattle and a few pigs. About nine o'clock in the evening, Mr. Elmaker heard a great commotion among his cattle and pigs at the barn. On rushing out to ascertain the cause of alarm, imagine his surprise on finding that an old bear and two cubs had attacked a yearling calf. The cattle were snoring and bellowing at a fearful rate, while the pigs were squealing as lustily as if they expected to be dispatched every minute. The bear had thrown the calf down and was preparing to drag it out of the yard. The cubs were running around snapping their teeth and uttering half-suppressed growls of delight at the prospect of a 'good square meal.'

Mr. Elmaker returned to the house, informed his wife, and made preparations to attack the bears. He seized his rifle, while his wife armed herself with a long handled double-bitted axe. Thus armed they advanced to the attack. The bears, made bold and ferocious by hunger, did not seem inclined to give up their prey. Rising upon her haunches the old bear showed fight, and the cubs crouched behind her, snarling fiercely. Mr. Elmaker raised his rifle and fired at the black monster, thinking that if she were killed the cubs could easily be dispatched or driven off. But owing to the excitement under which he was laboring, he missed his aim and only broke the left fore paw of the animal. With a fierce growl of rage, caused by the painful wound, the old bear rushed at her assailants, followed by the cubs. They stood their ground for a few minutes, Mr. Elmaker clubbing his rifle, while his wife cut one of the cubs severely in the shoulder with the axe. The rage of the animals became fearful, and the great danger of facing them at once became apparent. Retreating rapidly to the house, they barred the door and prepared to defend themselves. Mr. Elmaker succeeded in reloading his rifle, and firing through the window, killed a cub. The old bear now attempted to climb the log-house, but owing to her broken paw was unable to do so. Another shot from the rifle wounded her severely in the head, when she set up the most hideous howls of rage. Failing to get another shot at them, the parties inside remained in a state of siege, prepared to resist any further attack. The animals loitered round until midnight, when they retired and all became still. On making a search in the morning the old bear was found dead about six hundred yards from the house, and the cub lay where it fell in the early part of the engagement. The other had disappeared in the forest. The two dead bears were secured and dressed—the old one weighed 380 pounds, and the cub 198. The Elmakers have a sufficiency of bear meat to last them for the balance of the season. The skins will be brought to Williamsport soon and offered for sale. The affair caused much talk in the neighborhood for several days. It is seldom that bears are so bold, but their bravery on this occasion was caused, no doubt, by the cravings of hunger. The calf was badly lacerated by the teeth and claws of the animal, but will recover. Mrs. Elmaker says she is ready for the next raid."

FROZEN TO DEATH.—A. M. Wilcox, who has returned from Plymouth County, Iowa, says that three residents on homesteads in that county started with a team for Broken Kettle for wood, but were over taken by the storm on the memorable Saturday morning. Two of the men dug their way into a huge snow-drift and remained there, while the other man proceeded on his way with the team. The men in the drift remained there a day and a half before they dared to venture out, but suffered no material injury by their long confinement. The man who kept on his way, together with the team, was found, a few days after frozen to death, near Suttin's Home, fifteen miles above Sioux City. As far as positively know, eight persons were frozen to death by this storm, within a radius of fifteen miles of this place. The loss of stock within the same limits has been immense, and will probably reach four to six hundred horses and cattle.

When does rain become too familiar with a lady? When it begins to patter on the back.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

SENATE.

Mr. Sumner offered a preamble setting forth the alleged manufacture and sale of arms and ammunition in the workshops of the United States government for the French, to be used against Germany, in 1870; and a resolution for the appointment of a select committee of seven to investigate all sales of ordnance made by the government of the United States during the war between France and Germany; to ascertain the persons to whom they were made, the real parties in interest, and the sums respectively paid and received by them. The committee is to have power to send for persons and papers, and to conduct the examination in public.

Mr. Wilson introduced a resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Relations to consider the expediency of passing a joint resolution authorizing the President to communicate to the government of Spain the protest of the United States against the action of the authorities of Cuba towards the Chinese laborers in that island. Adopted.

The motion to reconsider the vote by which the Chicago Relief bill was passed was carried—25 to 22.

Mr. Sumner, in a discussion of 11 Franco-German arms bill said: The subject was interesting and important in two aspects—as it concerned ourselves and as it concerned foreign powers. All must unite in a desire to relieve our country from suspicion, especially suspicion of a moral obliquity. He would speak not of men, but of facts, and if anybody should be pointed at by the statement he was about to make it would be the fault of the facts, and not his. He had brought forward this subject with great reluctance, and after long delay. The main facts had been brought to his knowledge before Christmas, but he had postponed bringing them into the Senate, because he knew they had been laid before the President and Secretary of War, and he had reason to believe that they would institute an inquiry. They had not done so, however, but the Secretary of War had made to the House of Representatives a report upon this subject. The character of that report would appear as he proceeded, and the Senate would judge whether it did not fall under some of the suspicion which attached to the whole transaction.

Mr. Wilson said: The sales commenced in 1865, and continued till 1871. The arms, &c., sold by the Government from the 1st of April, 1865, to the 30th of June, 1871, amounted to $151,026,142 81, every cent of which had been faithfully accounted for and paid into the Treasury.

Mr. Brownlow proposed to make personal explanation in reply to Mr. Beck's assertion in the House that Mr. Brownlow, while Governor of Tennessee, made that State a pandemonium. He was proceeding to explain in very strong language, when he was checked by the Vice-President. The explanation was then read, the purport of which was that Mr. Beck's statements were false.

Mr. Cole submitted a resolution, which was agreed to, instructing the Committee on Education and Labor to inquire into the expediency of an amendment to the Constitution providing some educational test in the exercise of the electoral franchise.

HOUSE.

Among the bills introduced were the following:

For the revival of commerce by the construction of ten first-class iron steamers of not less than 3,000 tons each, to connect the ports of the United States with foreign ports, and to secure to the government the use of the same for postal, naval and other purposes.

For the payment of the value of cotton taken by the government; also, for the payment of the value of the Odd Fellows' lodges destroyed during the war.

To amend the National Banking act.

To place printers' material on the free list.

To increase the circulating currency $300,000.

A bill allowing respondents in criminal cases in the United States courts to testify in their own behalf, passed—yeas, 146; nays, 43.

A resolution calling for information as to the manufacture of fire-arms at the Springfield armory; also, as to the difference between the eight and ten hours system. Adopted.

Mr. Hale, of Maine, in a discussion of U. S. naval affairs, mentioned the fact that the number of men to which the navy was limited was 8,500, while the British navy had 64,000, and if the nation should get into war, it would be impossible to send out three additional vessels, all fully armed, with the present force to which the navy was limited. The whole point of his argument was that the blame should fall where it properly rested. If there was no navy as a legacy from the past, and if the country had not now a respectable naval establishment, they should not now grumble at any expense that was inevitable. The navy now possessed of the 650 vessels that belonged to it during the war, only 179 vessels of all classes. Of the rest, some had decayed, or sunk, or been sold, of scores and fifties of others, he did not know the fate; he had not been able to follow them; they were not on the hands of the Department and the Department was not responsible for them. They had vanished and faded away, and were not to be found or traced. The navy now contained 179 vessels in all. These he classified into four classes—not of strength, but of utility. Class No. 1 consisted of vessels that were at sea—some sailing vessels, some steamers and some iron-clads; they numbered 36. Class No. 2 consisted of vessels suitable to relieve those that were at sea; they numbered 14. Class No. 3 consisted of vessels that were worth being repaired in case of an emergency.

In the House of Representatives several bills were passed for the erection of public buildings at various places.

The Army Appropriation bill was reported, calling for $29,548,000.

Bill passed that mechanics and laboring men at the Navy-yards shall be selected by the heads of the various mechanical departments in the yards without the interference of any naval officer.

There was an exciting debate in the House of Representatives in committee of the whole on the Naval Appropriation bill, on Mr. Slocum's motion to strike out the item for the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. Mr. Hale was in favor of selling both the navy-yard and the naval hospital and putting the proceeds in the Treasury. Mr. Banks was opposed to sales of government property. Mr. Slocum declared that half the interest of the money for which the navy-yard could be sold would repair all the vessels of the navy, or take care of the sick of the whole navy. Mr. Hale advocated the sale of useless vessels. Mr. Maynard suggested that such historical vessels as the Constitution, the Macedonian, the Kearsarge, and the America should be excepted. Several representatives offered their opinions on this point, among them Mr. Butler, who said he would have useless vessels broken up and sold, but not sold as ships. Mr. Maynard's suggestion was not accepted, and Mr. Hale's motion was adopted. Mr. Swann, in the course of the debate, said that in case of war there were not six vessels in the navy that could be relied on, and he felt convinced that there was at present imminent danger of war.

A TEASER FOR TEACHER.—Teacher. "O.—Yes! Well, what's the next Letter?"

Willie.—"Ve nex' Letter!"

Teacher.—"Yes! Come—make haste and tell me!"

Willie.—"*Oo* tell *me!* *Oo* tum here to Teach *me*, me not here to Teach *oo!*"

FIVE powder mills belonging to the Miami Powder Company and located between Xenia and YellowSprings, on the Little Miami Railroad, exploded. Five men were killed, and another is missing. The ground was strewn with timber and debris for half a mile around.

"Every tree is subject to disease," said a speaker in a Fruit Growers' Convention. "What ailment can you find on an oak?" asked the chairman. "A corn," was the triumphant reply.

A LARGE number of Communist prisoners—estimated at about three thousand—have been recently set at liberty.

BURNING A CRIMINAL.—The British authorities in India burnt the body of Abdoolah, who, it will be remembered, murdered Chief Justice Norman, lately. He was, it appears, a Mohammedan, and the reason given by the English Government for ordering his body to be burned after the execution is that the Mohammedans believe that immediately after death every corpse is visited by two hideous angels, Nakir and Monkir, who examine it as to its faith—the soul returning to the body pending this examination. But if the body be utterly destroyed, the soul is unable to find means to speak to the angels, and is therefore lost. Hence the Government seized upon this superstition to strike terror into the hearts of its subjects. "Abdoolah," we learn, "faced his sentence of death with composure, but on learning that his chance of salvation was to be irretrievably destroyed, his courage utterly forsook him, and he died in despair."

SMALL-POX DISINFECTANT.—Having recently learned that many localities are now scourged with the small-pox, says a newspaper correspondent, I feel it my duty to say that if the head of any family will only take the trouble to sprinkle spirits turpentine on their carpets and bedding in every room in the house, they will have no small-pox. The above is a sure disinfectant. Repeat this twice every week; also in cars as well, every day, both steam and horse cars.

Pimples on the Face, Eruptions, Blotches, Scrofulous diseases, and all sores arising from impure bl