Farm, Garden and Household.

Housekeepers' Department.

MUFFIN RECIPE.—Two eggs, one quart of flour, a pint of sweet milk, two ounces of butter, a gill of yeast, a teaspoonful of salt.

ICING.—Into the white of an egg, beaten till very light, stir six tablespoonsfuls of powdered sugar, and spread over the cake while warm.

MILK STAINS.—Milk stains on serge dresses may be removed by steeping the part in warm water.

NICE DISH FOR THE SICK.—To one teacup of cream take four rolled or grated crackers, one teaspoonful of white sugar, the white of one egg beaten to a broth, with a teaspoonful of jelly of any kind.

LEMON JELLY.—Two cups of sugar yolks of three eggs; juice of two lemons. Cook till thickened by setting in boiling water, and then add the well-beaten whites of three eggs; spread between layers of the cake, and trim off the rough edges.

PUDDING SAUCE.—One half teacup of butter, one and a half teacups of sugar, and one pint of strawberries mashed till juicy. (Canned berries may be substituted for fresh ones.) Beat the butter and sugar to a cream, then stir in the berries.

SNOW PUDDING.—Dissolve one-half a box of gelatine in one pint of cold water. After it is thoroughly dissolved add one pint of warm water, two cups of sugar, juice of two lemons. Let it cool, then put in the whites of three eggs well beaten. Serve cold with sugar and cream.

BUTTERMILK YEAST POWDERS.—One quart of fresh buttermilk made up with corn meal to a stiff batter, with a teacupful of yeast. Let it rise; then add enough flour to make it a stiff dough. Put it on dishes or boards to dry in the shade. Rap it up, and keep it in a bag. To one quart of flour put one tablespoonful of yeast powder.

Churning Milk vs. Cream.

A question which is often asked, is with regard to making butter by churning the milk instead of the cream alone. My own experience has taught me that the milk first drawn from the cow has no butter—at least one-third of the milking; therefore, churning this milk is only time and labor lost. My plan has been to take from the cow such a portion of the first milk as is necessary for family use, churning the remainder. Until the past season, my family requiring a great deal of milk and butter, I have never had an opportunity of testing the abilities of a single cow; but since last May I have kept but one cow. I followed the above plan with the milk, churning each alternate day, and although I had neither cellar nor milk house, I have made 96 pounds of butter. The churning was done early in the morning, thus securing the advantage given by the cool morning air, and the butter came from the churn solid and ready for packing, with only the aid of a little cold water from the well. Some prefer churning every morning, because the milk is more easily separated from the butter—consequently, the labor less; but after years of ample experience, I find that milk, although sufficiently sour, if churned when too fresh, yields butter that is sweet and good, but not solid as when left a longer period for the water to begin to separate from the milk. This of course refers to summer months; as to winter, I follow about the same rule with my neighbors—churning when the milk is in readiness, which depends on the weather and the surroundings.

Farm Notes.

One dozen living grasshoppers, small but smart, were found on a farm at Putney, Vt., on the 9th day of January.

The Arabs tan a hide as follows: It is spread in the middle of a traveled road, and men and animals pass over it until it is beaten flat; and when dried it is finished, and good leather it is, though the hair remains.

There is good sense in the proceedings of divers county agricultural societies in Pennsylvania. They send committees of intelligent members to visit the State Agricultural College at unexpected times, thus having the advantage of accurate and fair reports, and of keeping professors and students in a state of anxious readiness.

A man of truth and acquainted with chickens describes in the New England *Farmer* certain sable ways in which fowls are made to appear beautiful at poultry shows. Imprisonment in a darkened room while feathering, and a curling iron, insure fair and wavy plumage; while trimming feathers, and scraping and varnishing spurs assist the artificial effect.

The owner of a sudden deceased cow, at Lisle, N. Y., being of an investigating turn of mind, immediately proceeded to discover when sent her out of this world of grass and butter. It was eighteen small pebbles which were picturesquely lodged in the second stomach. It is supposed that the cow was dyspeptic, and had been consulting some ancient medical chicken who was all for gravel and grape stones as digesters.

Curing a Cold.

A recent medical writer says: "Sleep whenever you can—anywhere you can get a chance; the want of the age is sleep." This is not always safe to follow, as one of our townsmen (says a cotemporary) knows to his sorrow. He was recently afflicted with a bad cold, and to cure himself of it resorted to the remedy of putting his feet in hot water and drinking a tumblerful of strong whisky toddy, prescribed by an aged and respected friend of the family. Having got everything in order for carrying out the prescription, he sat down by the fire, his feet immersed in warm water, and a tumbler of smoking toddy by his side. In this condition a sense of enjoyment stole over him as he sipped the exhilarating liquid, and fell asleep. His wife had gone to bed; and, on awakening about three o'clock in the morning, wondered why she was alone. Going down stairs she was horrified to find her liege lord asleep in his chair, the fire out, his feet still immersed in the water, over which a cake of ice was forming, and an empty tumbler on the chair beside him. His cold isn't a bit better.

Grape Seedlings.

G. W. Campbell describes a method by which he claims to be able to ascertain in advance the qualities of seedling grapes. He says that "the taste or flavor of the green tendrils of the vine may be found a true index of the character of its prospective fruit." He further declares that the tendrils of each variety possess a distinguishing flavor, by which it may always be detected from any other, and a seedling with this peculiar character may be at once set down as good, even in advance of its crop. His predictions have been verified in every instance, and frequently, too, when the appearance of the foliage would lead him to the opposite conclusion.

Refuse Leather.

Old boots and shoes are manure for vines and trees if cut small and put in the ground where they will keep moist. For other agricultural purposes they act too slowly. If rotted with quick lime or steamed, so as to admit of pulverization, they make a quick fertilizer, but costly to prepare; good wherever nitrogen, of which they contain some five to seven per cent., is serviceable. Bones would be better in the hole, and stable manure or fallen leaves as a mulch.

Preparing Hot Beds.

Prepare six weeks earlier than the time when it will be safe to set out the plants. Seeds may be sown in a bed of fine soil placed upon the manure, or what is better, where only a few of a variety are wanted, sown in earth in shallow boxes, and these placed in the hot-bed. Give air on mild days, and water when the soil becomes dry. During cold nights cover with straw mats or shutters to keep out frost.

Strawberries are in the New York market at $7 a quart.

HONESTY THE BEST POLICY.

A STORY OF THE NORTH OF GERMANY.

Before the castle of Gruningen, upon the Bode, one clear summer evening, the bishop Henry of Halberstaff was seated with a foreign prelate who had been his guest for a month. The posset-drink stood before them in two mighty flagons. They had been discoursing from ten o'clock in the morning, when they set down to dinner, about the huge wine-tun which a bishop on the Rhine had just got constructed, and were agreed in the opinion that it became every ecclesiastical prince, who would confer a becoming splendor on his court, to possess a similar tun. The affair was quite settled by both of them, except as to its execution; and their conversation began now to be interrupted by yawns, and to flag on in monosyllables.

It chanced, as good fortune would have it, that the shepherd Conrad passed by, driving his well-washed flock across the castle-yard where bishop Henry used to review them every evening. "I salute you, my lord bishop!" "Good evening, Conrad; but where is Harm?" Conrad whistled, and a beautiful large ram bounded up first to the shepherd and then to the bishop, who caressed the animal and fed him with some crumbs which he had kept for him. The bishop exchanged a few words with the shepherd, and inquired if his wedding-day was at hand. Conrad shrugged his shoulders and passed on with his flock.

Bishop Henry now extolled the beautiful ram which he declared he would not part with for anything in the world, and then he turned his eulogium on the good Conrad, who he said, was honesty itself. The foreign bishop laughed aloud, for travel into distant countries, and a frequent stay at foreign courts, had filled him with universal distrust of man. He averred that it was impossible to find a thoroughly honest servant—and least of all at the court of a bishop. They were all, he said, combined to cheat their masters, and all more or less rogues. Bishop Henry eagerly disputed his assertion; and extolled the virtues of the good people over whom he swayed the crosier, and above all, his shepherd Conrad, who, as he said, had never told a lie or deceived any person in his whole lifetime.

"Never told a lie! Never deceived his master!" repeated the stranger-bishop in a tone of irony. "No!" answered Bishop Henry; "he never has; and never will!" "Never!" re-echoed the foreign ecclesiastic, "what will you bet?" After several propositions, the two bishops agreed upon these conditions: first, that the stake should be an immense tun, capable of containing one hundred and fifty barrels of wine—and, secondly, that Conrad, without being made aware of the wager, should be put to the trial within three days. The two dignitaries then parted for the night, right glad to have found something to amuse them for two or three days to come.

The foreign bishop, before he went to bed, held, as his custom was, a consultation with his confidant, Peter, who was nominally his servant, and occasionally his fool, but the fact possessed a truer claim to the title of his privy councilor, than many others enjoying higher titles and places. Peter had always some shrewd advice to give in every emergency, whether temporal or spiritual. He was accustomed to hear, to see, and sometimes even to think for his master without any one knowing it. He had done so on this occasion; but he seemed little disposed to talk this evening, for the word *rogue*, which had escaped his master's lips during the inversation just narrated, had put him pr bad humor, and it was only by the evomise of a new scarlet cap, in the ment of the wager being won, that his coaster got him to open his lips. After some satirical remarks on the enormous cost of a wine-tun which should contain one hundred and fifty barrels—fit to exhaust more than half the revenues of a bishoprie—he undertook to find out how a gin might be set for the new phoenix of honesty, Conrad.

Peter commenced his operations with the rising sun; and before dinner hour was able to report to his master that Conrad was in love with the fair Elizabeth, and that she would not listen to his proposals till he should possess a little cottage of his own, both being very poor. The active Peter had already spoken to Elizabeth, and found her quite ready to assist in his enterprise; he therefore only required a handful of glittering silver pieces from his master to gain the bet. The bishop gave him as much as he wished, and sat down to dinner with good hopes of the wine-tun.

Meanwhile Peter has taken his way back to the fair Elizabeth; he shows her the shining coins which almost covered her little table, and a bargain is quickly struck between them; Peter agreeing to purchase for her a cottage, if she brought him who he wanted.

The following morning Elizabeth, soon after sunrise, went to cut grass at a place which she knew Conrad must pass with his flock. As soon as the latter perceived her at a distance, he flew, accompanied by Harm, to meet her, sat down beside her, and repeated all his former vows and protestations of ove.

But Elizabeth answered her lover very coolly, remarking that she had heard all that a thousand times over, and if he had nothing to tell her of a little cottage of his own, he already knew her answer.

Conrad was about to take his leave much dejected, when a half-smiling glance from Elizabeth induced him to inquire why she was so cruel to him, and what she wished him to do for her. "For the joke's sake, let us see whether you really are serious in your love for me," said Elizabeth. The favorite ram of the bishop had meanwhile pressed between her and Conrad, and now stood eating from her hands. "If I desire you to give me your ram that I may sell him—"

Conrad's heart sunk within him. Sadly he replied: "Any thing in this world but that; if the bishop did not in the evening get Harm to feed, there would be a pretty disturbance. Take the best pet sheep in the whole flock—take all the fifty belonging to me, only that single ram you cannot have." "Look now," said Elizabeth, "you men are all alike. Away with you and your fifty sheep; even so small a pleasure as this my love refuses me! Truly he would be a precious husband to me when the honeymoon was over! Away to your bishop; let him feed his ram, and do you leave me alone!"

They disputed thus a long while; Conrad shed tears in his anger, and Elizabeth at last confessed that she had sold the ram for the house they had so often wished to possess, and added that she must deliver him up that very day, cost what it might, as she had pledged her word and could not bear the idea of being called a liar. She then shed tears, lamenting that this unhoped-for pleasure of being able to get a house in which she and Conrad might live comfortably with their children, should be thus blasted. She asked if sheep were not every day dying—if none were ever lost—if none were ever stolen—if the wolf never devoured one, and so on. At last love conquered; Conrad promised her to deliver her the ram before noon, and Elizabeth promised to become his wedded wife in a month.

Elizabeth walked quickly on to the town, and Conrad gazed wistfully after her; the pleasure he felt in being her accepted lover was not a little damped by the idea of the interrogations which he must undergo from his kind master, in whose service he had been hitherto so comfortable, and who was so very fond of the ram.

He now stood alone in the field where Elizabeth had been cutting grass, with his eyes fixed on the ground. At last he struck his crook into the earth, placed his coat upon it, and his cap above it, and began a dialogue (which Harm occasionally interrupted by his movements) with the figure thus constructed, which he meant should represent the bishop.

"Good evening, my lord bishop!" "Thank you, Conrad, where is Harm?" "Harm, my lord bishop! why he is lost; indeed he has wandered somewhere."

At this moment, while Conrad was thus speaking, Harm pressed through between his legs to examine the figure to which he saw his master making so many profound reverences. "Conrad, Conrad!" continued the shepherd, in his fanciful interlocutorship, "Harm knows his home; Harm could not lose himself! That will not do."

Another conversation, in which Conrad tried to represent the ram as stolen, Harm interrupted by a violent blow with which he meant to answer the bows he saw his master making. "He is not so easily caught!" exclaimed Conrad. "That will not do either."

Thus he talked with himself for about half an hour; but his imaginary dialogues always terminated with a shake of the head and these words: "Conrad, that will not do!" "And yet," added he, "I must before noon give up the ram; for I have promised it, and if Elizabeth does not deliver it as she has already sold it, she would be called a liar, and could not become my wife."

At last he jumped up joyfully and exclaimed: "Honesty is the best policy! That will do!" He put on his cap and his coat and drove forward his flock, and before noon he had delivered, with a deep sigh, his darling Harm to Elizabeth, who, without reflecting any more about the matter, exchanged him for the price of the cottage.

That evening was fixed for Conrad's trial. Both the bishops waited at their posset-cup in the castle-yard for the appearance of the shepherd who was to decide their wager. The hearts of both beat strongly, and they spoke but little, for each had a strong desire that the honor of constructing the tun might fall to the lot of the other. But Pete, the privy councilor, kept himself quite cheerful, and secretly rejoiced beforehand in the success of his well-laid plan, and the certainty of his victory; for he had already had the bishop's favorite ram in his stable, and how could Conrad venture to tell the truth, when his doing so must draw upon him the wrath of his master and deprive him of his bread forever!

So reasoned the privy councilor; meanwhile Conrad appeared driving his flock across the castle-yard. Peter smiled triumphantly, for already he fancied the could trace fear and anxiety at work in Conrad's countenance.

That evening no ram came bounding up to bishop Henry, to receive his accustomed portion. "Where is Harm?" inquired the bishop, with a scrutinizing look. "I have sold him," cried Conrad; "now it is out! Honesty is the best policy; that is my motto, my lord bishop, as you know; and it shall always, so it please Heaven, remain my motto." Peter's face lengthened; but bishop Henry exclaimed, with an angry countenance and a threatening voice: "Why did you sell him without telling me? I would have given you his price ten times told. Do you not know—"

"Hear me, my lord bishop," said Conrad. "Elizabeth tempted me, as Eve tempted Adam; and Elizabeth was tempted by a rogue, as Eve was by a foul fiend. If he gives me back my ram, I will not reveal his name."

Peter turned angrily away, for gone were all his glittering pieces, and the scarlet cap besides; and now the ram himself was gone also!

"Elizabeth," continued Conrad, "had sold Harm before telling me, otherwise she would never have been able to give me; but, as matters stood, I was obliged to give him to her, however sorry I was for it—else she would have been called a liar, and she is now my betrothed. That is the naked truth, my lord bishop; do now with me what you please; what is done is done, only do not punish Elizabeth—a poor weak woman easily seduced by any tempter."

Bishop Henry would have begun to scold, but the other bishop, casting an angry glance on Peter, who now withdrew himself, exclaimed: "I have lost the wager; that was the trial."

So Bishop Henry's wrath was assuaged by the pleasure of having won the wager; but the honesty of Conrad afforded his master more gratification than even the wine-tun, for it taught him also the power of love, and what love can do with men.

"Yes!" exclaimed both the bishops, "honesty is the best policy!" And Bishop Henry added: "As a reward of your honesty I will be at the expense of your wedding, and half the flock shall be yours." "And," added the foreign prelate, "your darling Harm shall be restored to you again, and the cottage you shall also retain as a christening-gift from me to your first child."

Thus the bishop who lost the wager was led to get the large wine-tun constructed, which formerly attracted so many travelers to Gruningen, and which now lies upon the Spiegelsberg near Halberstadt.

Navvies and Their Habits.

The navvy is not a drunkard. He could not get through the violent and sustained labor if he were an habitual sot. When he is "keeping steady" he is an abstemious man. He never has beer brought to him when at work, as is the custom of puddlers and foundrymen, who may be said to work upon beer. The navvy has a drink of beer for dinner and another for supper, and perhaps the lodgers in a shanty may have a "pint round," as they sit and smoke in the evening. Perpetual infraction of the licensing act goes on in every navvy settlement. Every shanty settlement. Every shanty keeper has a barrel of beer, and retails the drink to the lodgers in the house; indeed to every non-suspicious person who may ask for it. The navvy's life is a kind of modern labor of Sisyphus. He saves his money. He buys himself a good kit. Not unfrequently, when he can keep steady long enough, he invests in a silver watch—the larger it is the better value he considers he has for his money. He has rolled his stone nearly on to the plateau of competence. Then he "breaks out," and the stone runs down to the bottom. He meets an old chum, and they fall a drinking together; or a spell of wet weather may occur, and the navvy finding the time hang heavy on his hands, takes to card playing for beer; or he may have had a quarrel with his master. Sometimes from sheer *ennui* he can stand it no longer, but must be off to the nearest town; in other cases he has his drink out at home. When the navvy goes on the spree, he drinks not from the barrel of his shanty, but hies him to the public house. There he drinks first his money, then his watch, and then his clothes, till he has drunk everything except what he stands up in, save a trifle of marching money, and enough to make up his little bundle. Then he tramps, for, after a heavy spree, he does not care for going back to work in the billet from which he lapsed. He trudges to the next "seat of work," and takes on there, in all probability to pursue the same routine, and as likely as not in six weeks' time he is back again at the previous job, at which, if in by past time he has proved himself a fair workman, he is taken on without the slightest demur. He was free to go and is free to come. He represents simply so many shovelsful of earth to be moved, and if there is need for the earth to be moved there is need for him.—*All the Year Round.*

How the Indians Dun.

The Hartford *Courant* evolves the following theory: "There has been some philological doubt as to the phrase 'After him with a sharp stick.' It may have occurred to many that the 'sharp stick' referred to is the much-feared 'January bill.' And it would seem there was some ground for this. The Neeshenah Indians of California have not the brutal and disagreeable habit prevalent among us of sending dunning bills. When one Indian owes another, it is considered bad taste, as it is, for the creditor to dun the debtor. He proceeds with more delicacy. He procures a certain number of sticks, according to the amount of the debt, and paints a ring around the end of each. These he carries and tosses into the debtor's wigwam, and then goes away without a word. The debtor pays the debt and destroys the sticks; it is considered a reproach to have the dunning sticks thrown into the wigwam, and the creditor never uses them except with hard customers."

XLIIId CONGRESS,

SENATE.

The amendment to the currency bill of Mr. Wright fixing the amount of the currency at $400,000,000, was adopted by a vote of 31 yeas to 26 nays.

Mr. Johnson, of Virginia, presented a petition of Fitzhugh Lee for a removal of his political disabilities. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Ingalls, of Kansas, introduced a bill to enable the people of New Mexico to form a constitution and State Government, and providing for the admission of the State into the Union.

The Currency bill was before the Senate, the question being on the amendment of Mr. Sherman to strike out "eighty-two" and insert "fifty-six," so that the maximum limit of United States notes should be $356,000,000 instead of $382,000,000, as reported by the committee; it was lost by 18 yeas to 40 nays. Mr. Wright, of Iowa, moved to strike out the whole of the first section of the bill after the enacting clause, and insert that the amount of United States notes for circulation is hereby fixed at $400,000,000. Mr. Wright's amendment was adopted by a vote of 31 to 26.

Mr. Fenton, of N. Y., introduced a bill to provide for a settlement with the Six Nations of New York Indians of the questions growing out of treaty stipulations with them. Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

The amendment to strike out from the currency bill the 1st of January, 1876, as the time for a return to specie payment, was adopted by a vote of 28 yeas to 23 nays. Mr. Scott, of Pa., moved an amendment for an increase in the national bank circulation to the extent of $46,000,000, in additional sums providing that on Jan. 1 1877, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay on demand at the offices of the Treasurer of the United States and the Assistant Treasurer, to any holders of United States bonds to the amount of $100 or over, in exchange for such notes an equal amount of coupon or registered bonds of the United States, in such form as he may prescribe. Rejected, yeas, 6; nays, 37.

Mr. Sargent, of California, presented memorials, signed by 7,276 citizens of that State, setting forth the evils arising from the use of intoxicating liquors, and asking for legislation to prohibit the sale and manufacture of such liquors. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Fenton, of N. Y., presented the memorial of the recent Convention of Taxpayers of South Carolina for relief against misrule and corruption. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Ferry, of Mich., from the Finance Committee, reported favorably on the bill of Mr. Jones, of Nevada, authorizing the coinage of a twenty-five cent piece of silver at the mints of the United States. Ordered on the calendar.

Mr. Morrill, of Vt., moved to strike out, in the fourth section of the Currency bill, 70 per centum as the amount of United States notes to be retired as additional national bank note currency is issued, and insert 90 per centum. Rejected—yeas, 20; nays, 37. The question recurring on the motion of Mr. Morton to strike out the fourth section, it was agreed to—yeas, 28; nays, 27. Mr. Gordon, of Ga., offered an amendment providing for free banking, and to give to each State the same amount of circulation in proportion to wealth and population as the State of Maine now has. A number of amendments were presented and rejected.

Mr. Hager, of Cal., presented resolutions of the Legislature of that State asking Congress to require railroad companies which received grants of land for the construction of railroads from the Mississippi river west to the Pacific Ocean, by the act of 1862, to report to the Secretary of the Interior the quantity and description of the land sold and disposed of, and that all not disposed of be open to settlement and preemption.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, said upon the basis of the currency given to Maine the additional circulation would be about $263,000,000; upon the basis of that given to New York, $110,000,000; and upon the basis of Pennsylvania it would be over $100,000,000. Mr. Wright, of Iowa, said the people wanted more money, and the country would come to specie payment when it could. There was no use to talk about specie payment now. He had noticed in a leading New York paper that inflation meant war; that inflation would be resisted by force of arms. Such statements were not more unreasonable than similar ones made on the floor of the Senate. Mr. Jones, of Nev., said the resolution would have been put down for $1,500,000,000 less than it did cost if it was used for paper money, which, instead of being the spade of the husbandman, was the dice box of gamblers. The amendment of Mr. Morrill fixing the volume of fractional currency at $40,000,000 was rejected—yeas, 19; nays, 30.

HOUSE.

Mr. Thornburgh, of Tenn., introduced a bill to reduce the army. It proposes to leave the cavalry and artillery at the present force, but to reduce the infantry to five regiments.

The House proceeded to vote on the bill to regulate the commerce by railroad among the several States, and the bill was passed by yeas 121, nays 126. The bill enacts that all railroad lines carrying freight and passengers between different States, whether owned by one or various corporations, shall be regarded as engaged in commerce among the several States, and shall be liable for any violation of this act. They are forbidden to charge more than a fair and reasonable rate for the transportation of freight or passengers; such rate to be ascertained and fixed by a Board of Railroad Commissioners, to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and to be residents of each of the nine judicial districts of the United States. They are to be disinterested persons, and not to have any interest in the stock or property of any railroad or any transportation company. This Board of Railroad Commissioners is to institute a thorough investigation and inquiry into the rates and toll and compensation charged for transporting freights and passengers over each of such lines of railroad, and into the reasonableness thereof; and is, as soon as practicable after such investigation and inquiry, to prepare for the owners and operators of each of such railroads a schedule of reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight and cars on and over said lines respectively. The schedule is to be duly authenticated by the Board of Commissioners, and to be printed and kept posted up in each of the offices and depots of such railroad company, corporation, or person. They may from time to time, and so often as circumstances may require, change and revise schedules, and shall give notice of such changes or revisions in manner aforesaid.

Mr. Poland, of Vt., indicated an amendment which he desired to offer, making it the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to retire and cancel as fast as practicable United States notes to an amount equal to the issue of such national bank currency, and insert 90 per centum. Rejected—yeas, 20; nays, 37. The question recurring on the motion of Mr. Morton to strike out the fourth section, it was agreed to—yeas, 28; nays, 27. Mr. Gordon, of Ga., offered an amendment providing for free banking, and to give to each State the same amount of circulation in proportion to wealth and population as the State of Maine now has. A number of amendments were presented and rejected.

Mr. Hager, of Cal., presented resolutions of the Legislature of that State asking Congress to require railroad companies which received grants of land for the construction of railroads from the Mississippi river west to the Pacific Ocean, by the act of 1862, to report to the Secretary of the Interior the quantity and description of the land sold and disposed of, and that all not disposed of be open to settlement and preemption.

Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, said upon the basis of the currency given to Maine the additional circulation would be about $263,000,000; upon the basis of that given to New York, $110,000,000; and upon the basis of Pennsylvania it would be over $100,000,000. Mr. Wright, of Iowa, said the people wanted more money, and the country would come to specie payment when it could. There was no use to talk about specie payment now. He had noticed in a leading New York paper that inflation meant war; that inflation would be resisted by force of arms. Such statements were not more unreasonable than similar ones made on the floor of the Senate. Mr. Jones, of Nev., said the resolution would have been put down for $1,500,000,000 less than it did cost if it was used for paper money, which, instead of being the spade of the husbandman, was the dice box of gamblers. The amendment of Mr. Morrill fixing the volume of fractional currency at $40,000,000 was rejected—yeas, 19; nays, 30.

HOUSE.

Mr. Thornburgh, of Tenn., introduced a bill to reduce the army. It proposes to leave the cavalry and artillery at the present force, but to reduce the infantry to five regiments.

The House proceeded to vote on the bill to regulate the commerce by railroad among the several States, and the bill was passed by yeas 121, nays 126. The bill enacts that all railroad lines carrying freight and passengers between different States, whether owned by one or various corporations, shall be regarded as engaged in commerce among the several States, and shall be liable for any violation of this act. They are forbidden to charge more than a fair and reasonable rate for the transportation of freight or passengers; such rate to be ascertained and fixed by a Board of Railroad Commissioners, to be appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and to be residents of each of the nine judicial districts of the United States. They are to be disinterested persons, and not to have any interest in the stock or property of any railroad or any transportation company. This Board of Railroad Commissioners is to institute a thorough investigation and inquiry into the rates and toll and compensation charged for transporting freights and passengers over each of such lines of railroad, and into the reasonableness thereof; and is, as soon as practicable after such investigation and inquiry, to prepare for the owners and operators of each of such railroads a schedule of reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight and cars on and over said lines respectively. The schedule is to be duly authenticated by the Board of Commissioners, and to be printed and kept posted up in each of the offices and depots of such railroad company, corporation, or person. They may from time to time, and so often as circumstances may require, change and revise schedules, and shall give notice of such changes or revisions in manner aforesaid.

Mr. Hawley, of Conn., discussing the currency question, said he was not satisfied with any bill which did not bear in mind the great primary duty of returning to the true standard of value. The practical redemption proposed in this bill he had seen on the line of the Pacific Railroad, but there they termed it "three card monte." He would vote every dollar of mere paper money out of his town and out of his State before he would consent to ten cents of inflation, and he would stay at home from Congress all the rest of his life rather than do it.

THE ORGAN as a household instrument has been rapidly growing in favor and the yearly sales are now enormous. A good Organ remains in tune, is easily kept in order, and blends naturally with the quality of the voice. The advertisement of the Smith American Organ Co., in another column, is referred to the consideration of our readers. This house has an enviable reputation for good work and fair dealing.

OF COURSE NOT.—There is a Danbury legend to the effect that a party desiring to transact some private business with another, was invited by the other to step into a neighboring store. "But we will be disturbed there," said the first party. "Oh, no," said the second party, "they don't advertise."

There is a great lack of laborers in New Zealand.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The mansion on the Hudson, owned by James H. Ingersoll of the Tammany Ring, was burned. None of the contents were saved. The loss is about $100,000. The fire is said to have originated from a heater. Mr. Ingersoll's son-in-law was the only occupant of the house, and he escaped by jumping from the second story window. He was slightly burned..... Thomas Mulholland, who beat and kicked his wife to death in New York, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the third degree, was sentenced to three years and six months in State prison. The minor plea was accepted because of the difficulty of proving any intent, deliberate or otherwise, to kill the wife. Mulholland at the time of the homicide was crazed by drink..... The most disastrous fire in Connecticut since Colt's armory in Hartford was burned eight years ago occurred in New Britain, destroying the cutlery department of the Ætna Works, owned by the Landers, Frary & Clark Company. The company was one of the largest in this country in the manufacture of cutlery and general hardware. Loss $600,000..... The twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession of Victor Emanuel to the throne of Sardinia was celebrated throughout Italy..... Jay Cooke & Co., amend their bankruptcy schedule, showing that they have about $1,500,000 loss of Northern Pacific Railroad bonds than they supposed..... The Democratic State Committee of Pennsylvania have called a State Convention to meet in Pittsburgh in May..... In Uxbridge, Mass., Grosvenor Aldrich fell upon a circular saw and was cut in two..... The Rhode Island Democratic State Convention resolved to make no nominations for State officers..... John Ortiner, street contractor, convicted for perjury in swearing to accounts for work on sewers that was never performed, was sentenced to three years in the State prison at Auburn..... Serious disturbances are reported in Montcalm county, Mich., caused by the efforts of raftsmen to destroy dams on Flat river. The Sheriff has called on the State authorities for assistance to preserve the peace. The Governor has ordered a company of militia to be sent to the scene of the trouble by a special train..... In examining the baggage of an immigrant passenger in the steamship America, the officers found three calico shirts which were quilted with switches of human hair. They took out 960, weighing 86 pounds. They were sent to the Seizure Bureau..... The Union printers of New Orleans all struck against a reduction. The proprietors offer fifty cents per thousand ems, and the printers demand sixty cents..... Gen. Santa Anna has arrived at the Capital of Mexico and paid a visit to President Lerdo. He intends to reside at Tacubaya, seven miles from Mexico. His fortune having been reduced to almost nothing the ex-President proposes to petition Congress for a grant, pension, or the restoration of some of his private property which was sequestrated by the State.

A fire, which resulted in the death of four persons, burned a four-story frame tenement in Third avenue, between 141st and 142d streets, Mott Haven..... Two men requested Justice Riley of Brooklyn to send them to Raymond street jail, saying that they were starving. The Justice committed them..... The Carlists under Gen. Sebalis have routed a force of Republicans under Col. Rouille at Tordera. It is said the Republicans lost 300 men killed ..... Small pox is again on the increase in Montreal. It is estimated there are at least two hundred cases in the city..... At a Centennial mass meeting in Philadelphia, the citizens pledged themselves to increase their subscriptions by a sum not less than $4,000,000, and to call on the city to appropriate a further sum of $1,000,000 to be used in the erection of the Centennial buildings..... David E. Blodgett was indicted in Laconia, N. H., for the murder of his wife. Blodgett pleaded guilty of murder in the second degree, and was sentenced to thirty years' imprisonment..... Since the summer of 1873, and at regular intervals, discoveries of gold in paying quantities have been reported from the tributaries of the Yellowstone river in Montana. The latest exciting news from the undeveloped auriferous deposits of the territory is contained in a letter by a resident of Bozeman, Montana, which says gold is plentiful there.

A CAT'S REFUGE.—As a roundsman in New York was patroling he saw a fine Maltese cat run up the avenue, pursued by four vicious dogs. She was closely pressed, and to avoid her pursuers ran up a lamp-post into the lantern. Thrusting her paw through a small hole broken in the glass, the cat held her position and breathed easier. But a new danger menaced puss. After the roundsman had driven away the dogs, he saw that the fur on the cat's back had taken fire. It was extending in all directions. In spite of her pain, puss still clung to her perch, mewing piteously. The kind-hearted roundsman climbed up, and, turning off the gas, rescued the cat from her perilous position. A bright blue ribbon around her neck showed that the cat was a pet in some household.

RIGONOUS.—Not long ago, an old man, of more than sixty years of age, named William Steele, was committed for trial at the Essex Session, for stealing from the Rev. Donald Millman Owen, rector of Marks-Tey, near Colchester, three small pieces of firewood, value one penny. The man had lived in the parish during his whole lifetime, had been clerk of the church of Marks-Tey for twelve years, and was of irreproachable character. When the proceedings taken against him were made public much sympathy was evinced on his behalf, and a subscription was raised towards the expenses of his defense. The sessions were held, but the grand jury ignored the bill of indictment against him, and he was released amidst general congratulations.

COMMON SENSE REASONS why Dr. Walker's California Vinegar Bitters should be used:

1st. They are an entire Vegetable Bitters, free from all alcoholic stimulants.

2d. They are the result of careful study, experiment, and labor.

3d. The greatest care is taken to secure Medicinal Virtues, and exclude everything objectionable.

4th. They unite, as a life-restoring scientific tonic, the greatest strengthening and vitalizing principles.

5th. Persons of sedentary habits and overworked find in them a specific for *want of appetite, palpitation, debility, constipation*, and many other nameless ailments.

6th. The aged find in them guarantee of *prolonged health* and *life*, and weak and delicate females and mothers find especial benefit from their use.

7th. They are the MASTER OF DISEASE.—*Com.*

The Markets.

NEW YORK.

Beef Cattle—Prime to Extra Bullock's	12¾ a	13¾
First quality	12¼ a	12½
Second quality	10¾ a	11¾
Ordinary thin Cattle	10 a	10½
Inferior or lowest grade	09 a	10
Milch Cows	$35.00 a	$65.00
Hogs—Live	06¼ a	06¾
Dressed	07¼ a	07¾
Sheep	05¾ a	06¼
Cotton—Middling	17 a	17¼
Flour—Extra Western	6.35 a	6.60
State Extra	6.00 a	6.25
Wheat—Red Western	1.60 a	1.60
No. 2 Spring	1.53 a	1.57
Rye	.97½ a	1.02½
Barley—Malt	1.75 a	2.30
Oats—Mixed Western	.56 a	.58
Corn—Mixed Western	.85 a	.88
Hay, per ton	17.00 a	20.00
Straw, per ton	10.00 a	17.00
Hops	73½ 25:40—69½	.8 a .15
Pork—Mess	14.87½ a	15.75
Lard	.09¾ a	.10¼
Petroleum—Crude	7¼ a 7¾	Refined 15½
Butter—State	.38 a	.45
Ohio, Fine	.32 a	.35
" Yellow	.30 a	.32
Western ordinary	.28 a	.30
Pennsylvania fine	.38 a	.40
Cheese—State Factory	.10 a	.16½
" Skimmed	.04 a	.05
Ohio	.10 a	.15½
Eggs—State	.18 a	.19

BUFFALO.

Beef Cattle	4.35 a	6.15
Sheep	5.00 a	5.90
Hogs—Live	5.25 a	5.90
Flour	6.75 a	9.00
Wheat—No. 2 Spring	1.38 a	1.40
Corn	.78 a	.78
Oats	.52 a	.53
Rye	1.05 a	1.06
Barley	1.60 a	1.80
Lard	.09¾ a	.10

ALBANY.

Wheat	1.45 a	1.96
Rye—State	.85 a	1.00
Corn—Mixed	.85 a	.87
Barley—State	1.75 a	1.85
Oats—State	.60 a	.60

PHILADELPHIA.

Flour	7.25 a	8.12½
Wheat—Western Red	1.59 a	1.60
Corn—Yellow	.82 a	.82
Mixed	.81 a	.81
Petroleum—Crude	10¼	Refined .15¾
Clover Seed	9.50 a	11.00
Timothy	3.00 a	3.00

BALTIMORE.

Cotton—Low Middling	.15¾ a	.15¾
Flour—Extra	6.00 a	6.50
Wheat	1.50 a	1.85
Corn	.79 a	.80
Oats	.60 a	.65

Diseases of the Blood.

"The Blood is the Life." When this source is corrupted, the painful and sorrow-producing effects are visible in many shapes. The multifarious forms in which it manifests itself, would form subjects upon which I might write volumes. But as all the varied forms of disease which depend upon bad blood are cured, or best treated, by such medicines as take up from this fluid and excrete from the system the noxious elements, it is not of practical importance that I should describe each. For instance, medical authors describe about fifty varieties of skin disease, but as they all require for their cure very similar treatment it is of no practical utility to know just what name to apply to a certain form of skin disease, so you know how best to cure it. Then again I might go on and describe various kinds of scrofulous sores, fever sores, white swellings, enlarged glands, and ulcers of varying appearance; might describe how virulent poison may show itself in many forms of eruptions, ulcers, sore throat, bony tumors, etc.; but as all these various appearing manifestations of bad blood are cured by a uniform means, I deem such a course unnecessary. Thoroughly cleanse the blood, which is the great fountain of life, and good digestion, a fair skin, buoyant spirits, vital strength, and soundness of constitution, will all return to us. For this purpose Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and Purgative Pellets are pre-eminently the articles needed. They are warranted to cure Tetter, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, St. Anthony's