FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Farmers' Blunders.

A correspondent of the *Pacific Rural Press* thus writes of blunders made by farmers. He says: "For one, mine have been numerous. Much has been learned by bitter experience only; such, for example, as hanging a fresh hide on the fence to dry in the sun, and afterward selling it for fifty cents, whereas it would have brought $2 if well dried in the shade. But the blunder of blunders of farmers has been the high rates of interest paid for the use of money. Much of the money borrowed from the banks on mortgage on the farm, is now drawing interest quarterly, and even monthly, and at ruinous rates at that. Persons have run in debt under the impression that interest would be coming down lower and lower—when, of course, land would go up; and many of them have come to the conclusion that they have been making farm blunders. Now, as 'success is the measure of ability,' let this class walk up meekly, weak sisters as they are, and take their black marks as bad managers; and before a streak of luck strikes them let them caution the inexperienced ones, who have not yet 'put their foot in it.' It is not always popular to tell the truth, but it is generally proper; and let us advise beginners to go slowly and cautiously, and shun debt as much as possible, and especially at present rates of interest."

Brine for Preserving Butter.

The *Dutchess Farmer* says: "To three gallons of brine strong enough to bear an egg, add a quarter of a pound of nice white sugar and one tablespoonful of saltpetre. Boil the brine, and when it is cold strain carefully. Make your butter into rolls, and wrap each roll separately in a clean white muslin cloth, tying up with a string. Pack a large jar full, weight the butter down, and pour over the brine until all is submerged. This will keep really good butter perfectly sweet and fresh for a whole year. Be careful to not put upon ice butter that you wish to keep for any length of time. In summer, when the heat will not admit of butter being made into rolls, pack closely in small jars, and using the same brine allow it to cover the butter to the depth of at least four inches. This excludes the air and answers very nearly as well as the first method suggested."

Care of Cattle.

Cattle not unfrequently suffer in winter for want of water. They are turned out perhaps twice a day, and left out long enough to help themselves if they would. But unless let out immediately after a full feeding of dry food they will not always incline to drink at first, and the owner gets impatient and will not wait. They are tied up again and compelled to wait till towards night perhaps before they are let out again. They may then drink too freely of extremely cold water, often to be got only by breaking through the ice. This is a bad way to do, but it is by no means uncommon. It is the fault of the feeding. If they are fed properly there is little difficulty in inducing them to drink. It is a great convenience to have water brought into the barn or into some warm place in the cellar, where it does not freeze over, and where stock can have easy access to it.

Superior Mince Meat.

A Boston lady sends for publication the following recipe for making mince meat, which is now in season. She informs us that she has tried various modes, but finds the following to be the best: Take seven pounds of currants, well picked over and cleaned; of finely chopped beef suet, the lean of a sirloin of beef minced raw, and finely chopped apples (the golden pippin or Smith's cider apple), each three and a half pounds; citron, lemon peel, and orange peel cut small, each half a pound; fine moist sugar, two pounds; mixed spice, an ounce; mix well and put in a deep pan. Mix a bottle of brandy and white wine, the juice of the lemons and oranges that have been grated together in a basin; pour half over and press down tight with the hand; then add the other half and cover closely. This will keep a whole year or longer, and is frequently made one season to keep over for the next.

Bedding for Stock.

It is quite important at this season of the year to provide a sufficient amount of warm bedding for stock, and the "orts" and coarser hay and straw that are rejected by the cattle may be used for this purpose. At other and warmer seasons sand makes a very clean and useful litter and we like to use it freely, but it does not impart that warmth that is needed in extreme cold weather. Leaves that were collected in the fall are excellent for this purpose, and they have all the advantage that they are not so full of weed-seed as the course hay from the mangers. If we had plenty of leaves we would use them freely for bedding now. They make capital manure also, and if any farmer neglected to store up a lot of them it was a mistake that ought to be borne in mind to correct next year.

Profits of a Milk Farm.

At the meeting of the Connecticut State Board of Agriculture, Dr. Loring invited Dr. Wakefield to read a statement of the farming operations carried on at one of the State institutions at Monson. He is breeding a herd of Ayrshires for milk. The average of the herd, the past year, has been 2,300 quarts of milk per cow. The account showed his balance sheet, from which we learn that farming at this institution is made to pay. The amount of forage grown on the farm, the past year, equals 219 tons, including hay, rowen, straw, and other forage. The milk produced foots up to 90½ tons, and the bottom line shows a profit in favor of the farm of over $2,000.

Business Habits on the Farm.

A well-known business man says: "It is impossible for a man who has been engaged in business pursuits the greater part of his life to retire; if he does so he soon discovers that he has made a great mistake. I shall not willingly retire; but if for some good reason I should be obliged to do so, it would be to a farm. There I should bring up stock, which I would cause to be weighed every day, ascertaining at the same time their daily cost, as against the increasing weight. I should then know when to sell and start again with another lot."

Lafitte, the Pirate.

An ancient mariner, signing himself Jean Baptiste Callistre, writes to the Galveston *News* that he is one of the survivors of the celebrated band of Lafitte, the buccaneer of Barataria. The veteran gives a graphic account of the behavior of Lafitte's gunners at the battle of New Orleans, and tells a strange story concerning the cruise of the Vengeance, one of Lafitte's armed vessels. The Vengeance became a pirate, and captured an American privateer schooner, on board of which was no less a personage than Theodosia Burr, the lost daughter of Aaron Burr, whose mysterious fate formed one of the saddest chapters of American romance. The writer says: "The woman captured on the privateer died a few days after our arrival in Galveston. She was a very handsome woman, and I afterward learned was the daughter of a distinguished American. Her clothing—which was of the finest material—was marked "T. A." and she had a golden locket containing a portrait of a beautiful boy. On the locket were the words, 'To my wife, Theodosia.' She was buried on the island, a few hundred yards to the east of the old fort on the point. It was whispered among the men that Chauvet (the captain) had killed her, because she would not yield to his wishes."

Among the Whalers.

King David had a good time in Massachusetts. The whalers called on him, and among them were very old sailors. One, Captain Gardner, ninety years of age, is the only survivor of the crew of the first whaler that called at the Sandwich Islands, seventy-five years ago. At that time the Queen swam out to the ship. The contrast between a Sandwich Island Queen, guiltless of costume, swimming out to a whaler in 1800, and an Island King, loaded with furs, careering across this continent in a palace car in 1874, is a spectacle of rare significance.

Romantic Marriage.

A gentleman, whose name is not given, but who is designated as a railroad king from his great wealth in that species of property in England, was not long since married under quite romantic circumstances. The gentleman is rather advanced in years, but having met with a beautiful young lady in high life, he lost his heart at once, and became a very devoted suitor for her hand. He was one among many who bowed at the same shrine, though there were none who could compare with himself in point of wealth. The fair lady, however, showed herself completely indifferent to his advances. In vain did her friends set forth all the allurements appertaining to the possession of such wealth as the rich suitor stood ready to place at her disposal. Even the strong indorsement of her parents seemed to have no effect in advancing the prospects of the elderly but rich and devoted lover.

This was all very natural on the part of the young and lovely girl of twenty, it was all so literal and commonplace as to be scarcely noticeable. But it seemed that there was to be a sequel to the affair, into which an element of romance was to infuse itself, and making finally an interesting story of the whole. The lady had rejected the gentleman kindly but firmly, with abundant protestations of respect and esteem, but still dismissing him in unmistakable terms. The railway king went about his business, disappointed, to be sure, for he had regarded the beautiful girl with real tenderness, and hoped in his heart to see her happy in the care of a worthy husband. He thought the matter over and sought another private interview, when he assured her that his attachment was not selfish, that he was ready to make any sacrifice, to do anything within his power to contribute to her happiness, and further, that if her affections were fixed on any one whose wealth might not be adequate to his good fortune, he was ready by a settlement of one hundred thousand pounds to place her happiness in her own power! The lady looked at him for a moment in surprise, gave him her hand in token of appreciation, and thanked him for his disinterested generosity.

When she was alone she pondered over this experience. Such a proof of disinterested attachment was perfectly undeniable, and the more she thought of the matter the more interesting did the gentleman grow in her eyes.

The revolution in her feelings was complete. He was received the next time she saw him at her father's house with such encouraging smiles that he was led to speak once more of the ardor of his love, and with so much effect that the happy day was soon decided upon between them. If this little affair had not occurred in the aristocratic circles of Belgravia, probably the world would never have known the particulars of this very happy and romantic marriage.

The United States Navy.

From Admiral's Porter's report it results that as the United States is no longer a maritime nation in the commercial sense so it is also no longer a naval power in the military sense. The naval register shows forty-eight monitors, and yet there is not one ship, iron-clad or otherwise, that would be of the slightest value in a naval combat with any capable enemy. Out of the forty-eight monitors thus recorded only six are fit for service of any sort, and their armor would be before modern artillery scarcely more effective for resistance than the veneering on an old chest of drawers. Not only are the monitors useless for close combat at sea or elsewhere, but our wooden ships are also useless as cruisers from their want of speed. The Admiral says: If called upon at this time to command the fleets of the United States in case of hostilities, a position which is my ambition and my right, I should be put to my wits' end to succeed with such an incongruous set of vessels as we now possess. Prudence would probably recommend that they be shut up in port, and no fleet operations attempted with them, sending the wooden vessels abroad singly to do all the damage possible until captured by the enemy, our fifty-gun frigates perchance succumbing to a two-gun clipper armed with ten-inch rifles, and our smaller cruisers driven off by merchant vessels carrying rifle guns of lesser caliber.

Of all the wooden naval constructions of the war only three are left available; the balance are decayed and laid up, incumbering the yards, and only fit to be broken up or sold out of service. Of the forty-eight iron-clads thirty-one can be of no use except to sink as harbor obstructions. Out of the ninety-nine wooden vessels on the navy list only thirty-one can properly be called vessels-of-war, and not one of them can contend with foreign ships of equal size. Of the monitors only the Dictator has speed, and she needs repairs. Vessels built of the Connecticut and Congress class, if well built, are commended as effective against an enemy's commerce.

Of the double-turreted monitors the Monadnock, Miantonomoh, Amphitrite, Roanoke and Terror—really valuable vessels—want thorough repairs, entire new hulls of iron and new engines. They could not now go with safety from port to port, although intended for seagoing ships, and capable, when in order, of making long voyages.

Conviction by Lottery.

In the criminal court of Allegheny, Penn., William Byrnes, Esq., made a motion and presented reasons for a new trial in the case of the Commonwealth vs. Patrick Woolahan, who was convicted a short time since of assault and battery. The reason assigned by Mr. Byrnes as ground for a new trial was that the jury which had found the verdict had been guilty of misconduct. He said they stood six for acquittal and six for conviction, and then decided by drawing lots as to which it should be. The result was that his client was condemned as guilty, not by an intelligent and responsible act of his fellow-men, but by a lottery or species of gambling. Mr. Byrnes said that this could be proved, and he thought it good ground for a new trial. Judge Collier said that he himself would consider such an act good ground for a new trial, and he thought the weight of authorities in criminal law was on that side of the case; but it has been the invariable practice of the courts in this State not to question the manner in which a jury arrived at a verdict. The action of a jury after the members were locked up had always been held as sacredly secret, and the members of the jury could not be compelled to testify against themselves. So it would be a difficult matter to prove anything that might be asserted. If, however, any great wrong had been done, he might be willing to consider the propriety of disturbing the usage of the court. In this case he thought nobody was as yet harmed by the action of the jury, even if what alleged about them be true. He suggested therefore that the motion be withdrawn and the matter left to the discretion of the court, which was done.

John Robinson's Sad Fun.

John Robinson made New Year's calls in Detroit. He called on a saloon keeper, he called for liquor, called the liquor good, and drank enough to trip him up. Then he called for police, and when the police came he called them liars and such.

"I was having a little fun," he explained, winking at his Honor.

"John Robinson, are you aware that this is a very solemn world," said the Court, "a world which has ten heartaches to one smile? Don't you know that the grim shadow of grief rests upon every door step, and that the tombstones in the cemeteries almost outnumber the trees in the forest? There's wailing in every household, John Robinson—there's grief in every heart. And yet you claim that you were only having a little fun!"

"That's all, your Honor; it was a holiday."

"It was sad fun, John Robinson. While all the rest of us were swearing off and making double-back-action resolves, you were lying at the corner of an alley dead drunk. It is $5 or sixty days, sir, and if this was before a Chicago police justice, he'd make it $500 or a life sentence."

A Peddler's Night Ride.

A peddler named Jonas Marburger has for many years tramped over various sections of this and neighboring counties, says a Reading, Pa., paper, selling his wares; and by a consistent course he has won the confidence and esteem of a large number of acquaintances. Recently the peddler opened his pack in the kitchen of a man named Esbelstaub, in Albany township. The farmer's wife purchased what she desired, and the peddler, according to the custom of that neighborhood, was asked to remain for supper, which he did, and subsequently determined to stay all night. The farmer owns quite a nice tract of land, and during the evening much of the conversation centered upon matters pertaining to farming. At about 9 o'clock the peddler was shown to a large garret under the roof, where he was to sleep. The family retired, and nothing unusual occurred until some time near midnight, when the farmer was awakened by the barking of watch-dogs, and the tramping of a horse's hoofs. He arose and looked out of the window toward the barn, when an extraordinary sight met his gaze. The dogs were in an adjoining field, and, strange to say, there appeared to be a ghost riding about on one of the farmer's young horses. The farmer called the hired man, and on going to the garret with a lantern they found the bed which had been occupied empty, and the peddler gone, but his clothes still hanging on a chair, where he had evidently placed them. The farmer and hired man went down stairs, and found that all the doors were locked as they were before they retired. Going out they found the horse still on a full gallop under the direction of his mysterious rider. The hired man watched his chance, caught the animal, and, upon closer examination, found that the rider was the peddler, who sat there like a statue, and was in a complete state of somnambulism. He had nothing on him excepting his shirt, undershirt, drawers and stockings, and, notwithstanding the coldness of the night, he was perspiring freely when lifted down. They could not waken him properly until he was led into the house, and when he came to his senses he seemed to know nothing of what had occurred. He seemed startled at being out of bed and down stairs in such apparel. Subsequent examination showed that the man, in his strange state, had worked his way out of a trap door to the roof, and thence down to a roof of a back building, and thence to the ground.

Finding a Coal Mine.

The finding of the Mammoth vein of coal at the Reading Company's Norwegian shaft, between Pottsville and St. Clair, Pa., illustrates the correctness of the reasoning by which the conclusion was reached that an immense and almost inexhaustible basin of coal was lying deep underground at that point.

When the shaft had been sunk to the depth of nearly 1,200 feet, it was resolved, says the Pottsville *Miners' Journal*, to drill a test hole with the diamond drill, to find exactly how the veins of coal were situated. This work went quietly on for several weeks, until a few days ago, when the above-mentioned Mammoth vein was reached.

Gen. Pleasants' original calculation was that the Mammoth vein could be found at a depth of about 1,500 feet. The actual distance from the surface of the earth vertically down to the Seven Foot vein, the twin vein to the Mammoth, is 1,909 feet. The discrepancy is accounted for by the singular formation of the veins of coal as developed by the test drill. The Big Tracy vein basin is found to be 176 feet deeper than expected. And the Orchard vein is so curiously formed that it was cut three times, the distance from its first appearance to the last being 250 feet. The strata overlaps or closely folds in a very remarkable way. Taking these two entirely unexpected and unforseen distances out of the account, the calculation would have held correct.

The Seven Foot vein, which is the upper member of the Mammoth, was found to be thirteen and one-half feet thick, and of excellent coal. Underneath this vein there are seven feet of slate, three and one-half feet of good coal, four feet of slate, two feet of good coal, sixteen feet of slate containing iron ore balls, and six inches of carbonaceous iron ore, or black band. Then comes the Mammoth vein, twenty-one feet thick, next one and one-half feet of partition slate, and under this it is thought there is a nine-foot vein of coal. Below this, it is believed, comes the solid rock.

Besides the red ash veins, which will be worked, there are the following white and gray ash coals: Primrose, fourteen feet deep; Seven Foot vein, seven and one-half feet deep; and the Mammoth, twenty-one feet deep, making a total depth of forty-eight and one-half feet of coal.

Voting for President.

The following is the full text of the Constitutional amendment submitted to the U. S. Senate:

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), that the following article is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the States, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution, to wit:

ARTICLE 1. The President and Vice-President shall be elected by the direct vote of the people in the manner following: Each State shall be divided into districts equal in number to the number of Representatives to which the State may be entitled in Congress, to be composed of contiguous territory, and to be as nearly equal in population as may be; and the persons having the highest number of votes in each district for President shall receive the vote of that district, which shall be counted one Presidential vote.

ART. 2. The person having the highest number of votes for President in a State shall receive two Presidential votes from the State at large.

ART. 3. The person having the highest number of Presidential votes in the United States shall be President.

ART. 4. If two persons have the same number of votes in any State, it being the highest number, they shall receive each one Presidential vote from the State at large, and if more than two persons shall have each the same number of votes in any State, it being the highest number, no Presidential vote shall be counted from the State at large. If more persons than one shall have the same number of votes, it being the highest number in any district, no Presidential vote shall be counted from that district.

ART. 5. The foregoing provisions shall apply to the election of Vice-President.

ART. 6. The Congress shall have power to provide for holding and conducting the elections of President and Vice-President, and to establish tribunals for the decision of such elections as may be contested.

ART. 7. The States shall be divided into districts by the Legislatures thereof, but Congress may at any time, by law, make or alter the same.

Drawing to a Flush.

Gen. Schenck, the American Minister to England, has written a book on cards. In his item about the great gambling game, "draw poker," he says:

More money has been lost in drawing to a flush than in the Franco-German war. It is estimated in my country—where men are apt to reduce the most recondite matters to their arithmetical results—that over 500,000 negroes and 20,000,000 bales of cotton have been bet and lost by holders of sequences of four, with the chance of drawing a "quint" and filling the flush. Whether the player gets his flush filled or not, he is sure to bet; hence comes much bluffing. But those who bluff on flushes nearly always lose, for the consciousness of having been so near a good thing and missed it unnerves and betrays them. A Senator who has just failed to get the nomination for President is never good for anything afterwards.

Closing Cracks in Cast Iron Stoves.

Good wood ashes are to be sifted through a fine sieve, to which is to be added the same quantity of clay finely pulverized, together with a little salt. The mixture is to be moistened with water enough to make a paste, and the crack of the stove filled with it. The cement does not peel off or break away, and assumes an extreme degree of hardness after being heated. The stove must be cool when the application is made. The same substance may be used in setting the plates of a stove, or in fitting stove pipes, serving to render all the joints perfectly tight.

SUMMARY OF NEWS,

Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

President Grant issued a message recommending heavy rifled cannon for sea-coast fortifications, and the appropriations these measures would require. In the message, the President, after asking for $250,000 to commence work on these guns, says: The* contant appeal for legislation for the "armament of fortifications" ought no longer be disregarded if Congress desires, in peace, to prepare the important material, without which, future wars must inevitably lead to disaster. This subject is submitted with the hope that the consideration it deserves may be given it at the present session.....Rumors are prevalent in Paris that the Spanish Republicans and Carlists will join forces against King Alfonso, and in the event of success the people will be asked to vote for Don Carlos as King or for the republic. .....It is said in London that the government of Montenegro have resolved on war with Turkey.

A son of Patrick Kearns, of Morristown, N. J., was burned to death. While his mother went to the yard for wood the little fellow moved near the stove, his clothes caught fire, and when the mother returned he was burned so shockingly that he lived only an hour or so. Mrs. Kearns also suffered severely in her attempts to extinguish the flames, which encircled her burning boy.....In Mississippi county, Mo., a young man named Henson was suspected of robbery, and Joseph Carr and a posse of five men went to arrest him. During the pursuit Henson shot Carr, killing him, and the chase was abandoned. The following day Sheriff Swank, with a posse of men, renewed the pursuit, which resulted in the killing of one of his posse, the wounding of another, and the capture of Henson after being mortally wounded.....Irwin, in showing where the money of the Pacific Mail Company went to, says that A. W. Randall, then Postmaster-General (now dead), had $10,000; John H. Rice, M. C., $2,500; J. G. Schumaker, M. C., $300,000; W. S. King, postmaster of the House, $125,000. The door keepers of the House received $15,000, and the balance of $666,000 went to lobbyists.

The Anti-Crisis League of Philadelphia suggest as a remedy for the present financial crisis that Congress should impose duties on imports and give a bounty on exports, so that trade with foreign countries should not be against the manufacturers of the United States.....By a boiler explosion at a colliery in St. Nicholas, Pa., George Hassel was instantly killed and the fireman, who is missing, is supposed also to have been killed. A man (name unknown) had one leg blown off, several mules were killed, and the boiler house blown to pieces.....Mrs. John Emerson was found sitting in the kitchen of her house in Bradford, Vt., with her head literally blown from her body. Her husband was at the barn, and on entering the house, he found his wife as above stated, with knitting work in her hands. A double-barreled shot gun, discharged, was on the floor. Mrs. Emerson had been married but a few months. She was twenty years old, and was not known to have an enemy.....Senator Carpenter is to represent Wisconsin again in the United States Senate.....The Russian expedition, which is about to explore Western China, has reached Shanghai, via. Kiatcha and Peking.....Counterfeit $20 United States Treasury notes, dated the 10th March, 1862, are in circulation. The spurious notes are good imitations.....White, a colored man, was hanged in Corsicania, Texas, for the murder of another colored man.....The destitution in Dakotah Territory is so great that appeals are made for help.....The wife of Tom Ballard, the counterfeiter, was sentenced to five years in the Onondaga county penitentiary. Her husband was sentenced to twenty-one years.....The boiler of a locomotive exploded on the Charleston railroad, near Hardeville, Ga. The engineer was horribly mashed, and two firemen were injured....Mrs. John Rankin, of Rockport, Me., committed suicide by shooting.....John Weymouth, a traveling agent, was frozen to death while on his way to Great Falls, Me.

A party of disguised and well armed men entered the town of Sparta, Tenn., forced their way into the jail, captured the jailor, from whom they obtained the keys of the cells and released a man named James Boyers, under confinement for murder. Five other prisoners were locked up by masked men, who returned the keys to the jailor and departed.....John Gleason's house, in Cranford, N. J., took fire while all the family were absent, excepting two children, aged respectively two and four years. The house was destroyed, and the children perished. Their bodies fell to pieces when lifted. Gleason is an employee of the Central railroad. He did not come home when expected, and his wife went to learn to cause of his detention, and during her absence the disaster occurred.....B. G. Caulfield, Democrat, was elected at Chicago to fill the vacancy in the present Congress caused by the death of John B. Rice.....One hundred and forty-eight Sisters of Charity were expelled from Mexico and have gone to France.....The iron masters and colliery proprietors of South Wales threaten a general lock-out unless all their employees resume work at once. If the threat is carried out one hundred thousand persons will be thrown out of employment.

A revolution broke out recently in La Paz, Bolivia, when the troops got drunk and went through the streets shooting down citizens and creating great disorder.....A fire broke out in the Navy department at Washington and damaged the upper part of the building. Many of the official records were destroyed or badly injured.....The Secretary of State of Louisiana has been required to furnish the Congressional committee now in New Orleans the papers that were before the returning board. The McHenry party in Louisiana have again proposed to submit the election of 1872 to the arbitration of the committee.....The insurgents in Peru attempted to capture the city of Arequipa but were defeated.....The bill to amend the laws relating to the port of New York passed to a third reading in the New York State Senate.....Gov. Bedle, of New Jersey, nominated Mr. Manning M. Knapp, of Bergen county, as his own successor on the Supreme Court bench.....The repeal of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's subsidy was agreed to in the United States House.....It is rumored in Montreal that Lord Dufferin will resign as Governor-General of Canada, and be appointed Viceroy of India.....An Italian named Antonio Vacaro was found dead in his doorway in Vicksburg, having been murdered for money. The deceased is supposed to have had $3,000 on his person.....A black, who was brought to Jacmel from the interior of Hayti on charge of cannibal sm, has been tried and convicted, and will be executed in a few days. When arrested he had in a basket the head of a victim, who seemed to have been only recently killed.....A conflagration occurred in Jacmel, Hayti. Three hundred houses were destroyed, and the loss is estimated at $300,000. .....The women of Guanajuato, Mexico, have issued a protest against the expulsion of the Sisters of Charity, bitterly denouncing the government for the act, and reproaching the men who support it.....The "present of jewelry" which the United States Congress by a joint resolution has authorized Lieutenant Thomas W. Fitch to receive, on behalf of his wife, from the Khedive of Egypt, is a parure, diamond necklace and earrings.

It is reported that irregularities involving $1,000,000 have been detected in the custom house in New York city.....A cow valued at $25,000 died in Kentucky lately. It is only a short time since a cow died for which $40,500 were paid.....By a fire in Montreal twenty-five families were burned out.....The Maine State prison only cost the State $2,000 above its earnings last year.....Present actions of Congress indicate that as fast as the sewing machine patents expire that will be the end of them. They will not be renewed.....A bill is before the New Jersey Legislature to prevent gas companies from collecting rents for meters.....A bill is before the New York Legislature providing that banks may organize under the State laws, with a capital of $50,000, in villages where the population does not exceed 6,000.....The death of the Emperor of China is announced. He was born in 1856, and the next heir to the throne is five years of age.... .The extra Pacific Mail subsidy, $500,000, has gone by order of the House, and there is some danger that the $500,000, the first subsidy, may go with it, though all the disclosures have been in regard to the extra subsidy..... Gen. Burnside was elected United States Senator in Rhode Island, Dixon having withdrawn his name. The vote was, Burnside, 62; Barstow, 16; Brown, 12; Sheffield, 6 Hart, 3; and 5 scattering.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

Senate.

Wright, of Iowa, from the committee on the civil service and retrenchment, reported adversely on the bill to abolish the system of mileage, and it was indefinitely postponed.

Hamlin, of Maine, from the same committee, reported adversely on the bill to reduce the salary of the President of the United States, with the request that it be placed on the calendar with the adverse report. So ordered.

Logan, of Illinois, from the Military committee, called up the House bill for the relief of Gen. Samuel W. Crawford. He said that there had been numerous instances where officers had been retired on a rank much higher than that which they actually held while in active service. He submitted an amendment to prevent this, but excepting from its operation those who had lost an arm or leg, or both eyes, or who have served twenty-five years in the army. He had no desire to mention names, but there was a gentleman formerly connected with our army, now in the civil service in Europe, whose rank in active service was very low, but he was retired with a very high rank. There were others, now in the employ of railroad companies, who were retired with a rank higher than that actually held by them before retirement. The amendment was agreed to, and the bill passed.

Edmunds, of Vermont, presented a joint resolution of the Vermont Legislature against the ratification of the proposed Canadian reciprocity treaty. Referred to the committee on foreign relations.

Wright, of Iowa, introduced a bill for the reduction of the salaries of the United States employees ten per cent., if they exceed $1,200 per annum, for two years from July 1, 1874. The President and United States judges are exempted.

Schurz's resolution instructing the Judiciary committee to inquire what legislation was necessary to secure to the people of Louisiana the right of self-government under the Constitution, called forth an earnest debate, in which Sherman, of Ohio, upheld the course of the troops in New Orleans, and denounced the act of Wiltz in taking the Speaker's chair as an act of usurpation. Bayard, of Alabama, said the question was not whether the conduct of Wiltz was regular or irregular, but that it was not within the province of the President to interfere in the organization of the State Legislature.

Schurz, of Missouri, said if the Senator was willing to take the report of the House subcommittee, which visited New Orleans, as true, then he must admit that the grossest frauds were committed by the returning board, and therefore that board was the cause of the trouble.

Mr. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, in presenting a memorial of the operatives in the Raritan woolen mills, N. J., for the repeal of the act of June 6, 1872, reducing the duty on certain foreign products, said he believed the granting of this petition would increase our revenue and give activity to our sluggish industries. A protective tariff, while giving prosperity to the people, also increased the revenue of the country. Referred to the committee on finance.

The following bills were disposed of: The House bill to provide for enlistments in the navy was indefinitely postponed; the Senate bill to amend the act of July 17, 1862, for the better government of the navy, and the Senate bill for the relief of the survivors of the Polaris were passed.

Mr. Conkling, of New York, presented a memorial of the citizens of New York touching the condition of the wages and industries of the country, and against the restoration of the duty on tea and coffee.

Mr. Ingalls, of Kansas, from the committee on Indian affairs, reported with amendments the House bill to authorize the Seneca nation of New York Indians to lease lands within the Cattaraugus and Allegheny reservations and to confirm existing leases. Placed on the calendar.

Mr. Dorsey, of Arkansas, introduced a bill to establish certain telegraph lines in the several States and Territories as post roads, and to regulate the transmission of commercial and other intelligence by telegraph. Referred.

House.

The vote rejecting the Indian Appropriation bill was again reconsidered without the yeas and nays, and then finally the bill was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union—yeas, 142; nays, 102. The Speaker stated that the bill went to the Committee of the Whole as an entirely new bill, subject to amendment.

The Letter Tariff bill, as it is called, was considered, and the House agreed to the conference report on it by a vote of 136 to 99. The bill goes to the President for his signature.

Garfield, of Ohio, from the committee on appropriations, reported a bill appropriating $182,500 in coin to pay the interest on the 3.65 bonds of the District of Columbia. Ordered to be printed and recommitted.

Myers, of Pennsylvania, presented a petition of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Union at Philadelphia, for the passage of the bill equalizing bounties.

Mr. Crooke, of New York, introduced a bill for the exchange of lands at Wallabout bay between the United States and the city of Brooklyn.

Mr. Cessna, of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution providing that the rules be so far suspended during the remainder of the present session as to prevent the Speaker from entertaining any dilatory motion pending the consideration of any public bill or joint resolution, or of any motion to bring, or the result of which may bring before the House for consideration such bill or joint resolution. It was vehemently opposed by the Democratic members, who claimed that it was in violation of the Constitution, would open the Treasury to all kinds of schemes, and set a bad precedent. The Republicans held that it would prevent a waste of time. The resolution was lost.

Mr. Garfield, of Ohio, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported a bill appropriating $182,500 for the payment of the February interest on the 3.65 bonds of the District of Columbia, to be considered and adjusted as part of the proportional sum to be paid by the United States for the expenses of the district, and toward the payment of the interest on the funded debt of the district. Referred to the Committee of the Whole, where it can be reached only in the regular order or by suspension of the rules.

Mr. Potter, of New York, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a joint resolution proposing the following amendment to the Constitution.

"ARTICLE 16. From and after the next election for a President of the United States, the President shall hold his office during the term of six years and, hereafter, the Vice-President chosen for the same term, be elected in the manner as now provided or that may hereafter be provided; but neither the President nor the Vice-President (when the office of President has devolved upon him) shall be eligible for re-election as President."

This elicited a spirited debate, in the course of which Mr. Butler remarked that the reason why we had been so unsuccessful in Vice-Presidents when they had become Presidents is because they have always looked to a re-election, and therefore we propose to take away the temptation. He further said: "The time which would call for the re-election of a President is when a crisis which has held of the government, and when in time of commotion, and the people feel a doubt as to what will be the future of the country without a re-election. Then I can conceive a possibility of the people coming up as one man to the re-election of a strong hand, that will hold the government in the future as it has held it in the past. I can conceive of that, and the only thing that will ever make a third term successful." The resolution was rejected by a vote of 124 to 104—not two-thirds in favor. All the Democrats and forty-seven Republicans voted for it.

Mr. Butler reported a resolution in reference to the McGarrahan and New Idria Mining Company's claims in California, directing the commissioner of the government land office to institute legal proceedings in the name of the government against the New Idria Mining Company in the Circuit Court of the United States for California to restrain further waste of the property; for the appointment of a receiver; and for the recovery of possession, and also for the recovery of seven million dollars illegitimately and wrongfully taken therefrom by the New Idria Mining Company, and such other action as the commissioner may deem proper. Also directing the Secretary of the Interior not to issue patents to the New Idria Mining Company until the legal proceedings are determined. After much discussion, the resolution was adopted by a vote of 136 to 11.

Mr. Butler moved a reconsideration of the vote whereby the Civil Rights bill, reported by the Judiciary committee, was recommitted. "Filibustering" was at once begun by the opposition to prevent getting the bill before the House, with such success that the roll was called sixteen times in the course of the morning, and nothing had been done up to the hour of adjournment. The voting was of a strictly party character, and the list showed an average of 225 members.

Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, presented credentials of his colleague-elect, Mr. Stevens, who was chosen to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Crocker. The credentials were read, and Mr. Stevens was sworn in, and took his seat.

Spontaneous Combustion.

At a seance of the Societe de Chirugie de Paris, a paper by M. Chassaignol of Brest was read on this subject. The question of spontaneous combustion was broached for the first time in 1692, and various French authors have accepted it as a possibility. The Germans, however, as Casper and others, have denied it. M. de Chassaignol has attempted a careful revision of all the cases recorded, and finds that no medical man, nor any one whose statements are worthy of credit, has ever observed the phenomenon at first hand. Many authors declare that the human body burns with a blue flame and the production of an empyreumatic odor, and it has been imagined that the alcohol with which the tissues of drunkards are saturated might catch fire; but facts are stubborn things; the flesh of drunkards does not appear to be more inflammable than others after death, and even when it has been soaked for several days in alcohol it burns with difficulty. Again, after injection made into the veins of animals, as of dogs, it was found impossible to effect their combustion. Others have suggested that inflammable gases might be generated, but this is also unproved, and, on the whole, M. de Chassaignol decides against the possibility of its occurrence.

Soldiers of Fortune.

America has not furnished very many soldiers of fortune, but they have all been marked men, and the number is increasing. The American officers in Egypt, of whom there is now so large a representation, are certainly in a good sense soldiers of fortune, and they are making such success and winning such renown that they will stimulate other adventurous souls to follow in their path. But they are not the only or the first of our countrymen who have drawn swords for a foreign cause. During the Crimean war, Col. Burr Porter, of New Jersey, a thorough American, though of long residence in Europe, entered the Turkish service and gallantly commanded a regiment of Bashi-Bazouks. Col. Porter was a natural soldier of fortune, who rusted and wearied under the restraints of quiet life—a man of prodigious personal strength, with the muscles and physical training of a prize-fighter, and yet a man of refined and cultured tastes and polished bearing. The field of ordinary business was about as well adapted to him, or he to it, as a plow-boy to be a dancing-master. Our national spirit of enterprise took with him a new direction, and it was the direction of restless adventure. During our war he came back to have a hand in it, and served as colonel of a Massachusetts regiment. The opening of the Franco-German war dragged him from the domestic life into which he had finally settled, and he was in France before even his friends knew he was gone from New York, and on the battle-field he perished, with the cry of *vive la France* on his lips, for he gave himself by complete sympathy to the side of the Frenchman. Rushing forward at the head of his men in a charge, he had just cried: "I will show you how Americans fight," when the fatal shot struck him.

Gen. Thomas Jordan, who at one time held command of the Cuban army, would, perhaps, not wish to be called an American soldier of fortune, but rather an American who fought for an oppressed people whose cause he had espoused as a friend of justice, yet he may fairly be ranked in our little list. He is a West Point graduate, was on the staff of Beauregard during the war, and probably will always be a soldier by profession. The Americans, Ward and Burgevine, who were so prominent in the Taeping rebellion in China, must complete the number of those of whom we can now speak. Ward's striking adventures and military success are detailed at length by Col. Cheaney in his late "Military Biography." He found his death in one of the many affairs in which he showed great gallantry; and, in Col. Chesney's words, "his skill and courage in action caused him to be much lamented."

The Invasion of States.

The bill introduced in the United States Senate, by Clayton of Arkansas, to protect each State of the Union against invasion and for other purposes, reads as follows: It provides that whomsoever shall invade any State for the purpose of violating the laws of said State or of the United States, or for the purpose of interfering in any manner with the execution of said laws, or whomsoever shall willfully and corruptly conspire, combine, and confederate with any other person for any of the purposes above indicated, shall, on conviction thereof, be deemed guilty of felony, and be punished by a fine not exceeding $10,000, and by imprisonment at hard labor not exceeding ten years. The United States District and Circuit courts are to have jurisdiction of these offenses. District-attorneys, United States marshals, and deputy marshals, United States commissioners, and all other officers who may be specially empowered by the President of the United States are by this bill especially required to institute proceedings against all persons who may violate the foregoing provisions and arrest them, to be imprisoned or bailed, as the case may be, for trial before a proper court. United States commissioners are empowered, within their respective districts, to appoint suitable persons to execute the warrants or other lawful process issued by them, and all persons or officers authorized by this bill to execute warrants, etc., as aforesaid, shall have authority to call and summon to their aid the bystanders or *posse comitatus*, or such portion of the land and naval forces of the United States, or of the militia, as may be necessary to the performance of the duty with which they are charged.

Such is Justice.

Mlle. Juvin was a French modiste in New York, acting as 'smuggling agent for a well-known actress, who in her turn was agent for certain fair and fashionable ladies, "leaders of the great world," whose vanity tempered their honesty to the extent of cheating the government in the matter of duties on their peculiarities and petticoats. Vast and shoulder measures of these "leaders of the great world" were sent to Worth, with photographs, when possible, that that careful artist might costume them in picturesque consonance with nature; the noted actress, acting as cat for the monkey (for a consideration), was ready to drag the chestnuts through the fire of the Custom-house; the woman Juvin was the paw of the cat and (for a less consideration) went into the fire. Poor Juvin was detected, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of $2,000.

It is shown that the plan of the fashionable ladies was to have the dresses come in; nobody was there to receive them, and they were seized and sold at auction. Each lady who had ordered a dress had an agent on hand to buy it in, and in this way secured it at much less than what she would have to pay. The smuggler lies in prison, and the fashionable ladies who induced her to commit the crime frisk on light fantastic toes through waltz or german in their stolen tulles and velvets.

New York State Militia.

The report of Adjutant-General Rathbone, of New York State, for the year 1874, has been made public. He states that the National Guard, as at present constituted, consists of eight divisions, nine