FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Fruit Garden.

Selections of various kinds of fruits for planting out the coming spring should be made early, and ordered in time to set out as soon as the ground will permit. In planting a fruit garden for family use, select to embrace both early and late sorts of each kind. With care in selecting, the season of each fruit may be greatly extended.

If new blackberry and raspberry settings are to be made in the spring, and plants are not at hand, order at once, as they start so early that they cannot be planted too soon after the ground is open.

There is now a great variety of strawberries, the plants are remarkably cheap, and every one, rich and poor, should have an abundance. A bed of a few rods in extent will supply a large family, if cultivated properly.

Currants coming soon after the strawberries and raspberries, supply a place held by no other fruit; provide enough bushes to freely supply the table during the season, and for jellies and other uses. New plants are easily made from cuttings made either in the fall or early spring, and in two or three years these plants will be be abundant bearing, and with proper pruning and manuring may be made to produce fruit of extra size. During mild weather, when the wood is not frozen, prune the bushes and preserve the cuttings in sand in the cellar. The Versailles (red) and white grape are the most profitable. Every spring a dressing of well-rotted manure should be given, and a thick mulch applied to keep down all the weeds.

Gooseberries require the same general cultivation as currants, but need more pruning to give the plants an open head to admit light and air. The American varieties are best, among these, Houghton's and Downing's seedlings are favorites.

The garden culture of the grape is so simple that it is strange that no more vines are planted. The number of varieties is now large and the experience of others in the neighborhood is the safest guide in selecting. We have given from time to time the various methods of pruning and training the vine. The matter is not difficult, the one thing to bear in mind is that the fruit is produced on the new growth, which will start this year from the buds now on the canes. In pruning, all the buds are cut away, save those needed to form new canes.

Cooking Food and Feeding Stock.

E. W. Stewart, of the *Live Stock Journal*, advocated cooking for cattle, because it renders digestible certain parts of food that are indigestible if uncooked. He detailed experiments in which it appeared that one-third of the nutriment, especially in natural food, was not digested without cooking, and that consequently one-third was added to the value of such food by steaming or boiling. Another important end is also gained by the rapidity with which cooked food digests. Hay is a normal food for cattle—that is, its bulk is well adapted to the bovine stomach, and the elements of its nutrition are in good proportion for nourishing the body and for producing milk. But it is so slow of digestion that a cow cannot possibly digest enough to fill her capacity for milk or for producing flesh if it is fed to her in a raw state, nor would that capacity be likely to be filled with the addition of raw meal. But when both are cooked the utmost capacity is readily attained.

He explained at length the nature of bovine digestion, showing that much better results are obtained when fine food is mixed with coarse. He had fed fine food to cattle ten or fifteen minutes before killing and had found it invariably in the fourth stomach, but food having a certain degree of coarseness was always found in the first stomach or paunch. He felt in these experiments after fasting the animal sixteen hours. He never found any freshly swallowed food, either coarse or fine, in the second or third stomach. He did not, however, advocate cooking as a universal practice. If the herd is small the cost and labor of cooking might be greater than the advantage gained. But it will, he thinks, pay well in large herds.

Farm Notes.

There are one hundred and twenty men residing in six counties in California, who are credited with owning 3,140,000 acres of land.

An old, experienced farmer once said to a new beginner in farming: "Young man, let me give you a little piece of advice, will you? Never stir up your soil deeper than you are able to manure it." This is an axiom which it is well to remember.

A good deal of loss comes from wintering the wrong kind of stock, and also from wintering stock in the wrong way. Winters in the New England and Middle States are a heavy expense to the farmer, and still a great many farmers carry over stock that is of no more value in the spring than it was in the fall.

A *Maine Farmer* correspondent cured a "cribber" of taste for stall-feeding by saturating all the lumber within reach with kerosene. "If a horse is inclined to bite through the bottom of the feed box, fit some pieces of board into it, with the grain of the wood running toward his body, and he will make no progress, and soon give up the job."

D. C. Fisk, of Shelburn, believes in keeping pigs to make manure, and that if farmers whose stomachs are too weak to digest pork would go to work with their own hands instead of hiring men to clean out their hog-pens, they would soon be able to digest pork or almost anything else. Such had been his experience. Better raise pork and use it than to raise tobacco and use that.

An Indiana correspondent reports a number of instances in that State where farmers who had become wealthy from steady pursuit of their legitimate business for a lifetime, have recently lost their entire estates by speculation or by joining hands with their sons in outside enterprises, with the merits of which they had only slight acquaintance. Doubtless these instances can be multiplied throughout the country, but they all teach the one lesson: "Stick to the business you understand, and never place a mortgage on the farm."

Beecher on Revivals.

At a Friday evening meeting at Beecher's church, one of the members queried whether they didn't want a big revival once in a while in the church to stir up things—would not a Moody—the great revivalist in Scotland—be of service? Mr. Beecher answered:

Use everything—Moody and anti-Moody. All that will do good. Now, Moody is built five feet one way and fifteen feet the other. He is an enormous engine, and can make more steam in one hour than you (speaking to the member) can make in a week, and he hammers his way through. He is good in his way; but there is a use for dew as well as for rain-storms. Now, those calliopes and the dough-ye-ups that steam around the bay screeching and making such tremendous music are powerful things; but because my Æolian harp, by which I sit at twilight and listen to those strange, low, weird tunes that come through it, does not screech and bellow like the steam-music machine, am I to kick it aside in anger? No; there is work for the harp, the fiddle, the bassoon, and the horn. God works in every way. The great pumps out at Ridgewood reservoir pump with a great giant black engine thousands of gallons a minute, and we look at them rise up and go down and say, "Where's the power for you?" But in the meadow on the hillside, in the grass stalks, there is more pumping done in one night than they can do in a week, and there is no noise and no coal or fire. So all the forces of nature make no observation, and God's kingdom comes without observation.

Spring is Coming.

Ho! oh ho! the winds are saying—
"Spring is comin', full of mirth;
You may hear her footsteps patter
Lightly on the frozen earth.
Storms may wake and clouds be wailing,
Clouds be black with icy rain;
Yet be sure the grass is creeping
Upwards to the light again."

"BUCKET SHOPS."

Scenes During a Tour of Inspection—"Velvet Rooms"—How and Where the Multitudes are Demoralized.

At the distance of about a block from Police Headquarters, New York, is a "bucket shop," "distillery" or drinking saloon, known in the neighborhood as the "Morgue." Although it is a place where people drink—and drink a great deal—it does not come within the rank of what is known as "saloons;" and although the proprietor, like many other owners of similar places, ostentatiously calls it a "distillery" in large black letters on a white board running from the front wall some distance into the street, it is not a "distillery;" but, though few persons use the title in speaking of the den, it is a "bucket shop." A "bucket shop" is a large or small open store, piled up with barrels, where poor people go to drink alcohol. There is no bar or fixture of any kind within the place—at least there used not to be. The size of the glass prompted the name given to the shop, the idea in connection with it being that the customer gets a "bucket" of stimulating liquor at a low figure. There are nearly a thousand of these "shops" in New York city, and they are spread all over it. Attached to each "bucket shop," at the rear, is a place partitioned off, which is called the "velvet room." The name is a satire of the most refined acidity, for nothing like velvet ever approaches the "room," unless it may be some very threadbare relic of a grand lady's finery or the wornout skeleton of a theatrical skirt. Sleeping drunkenness and wild blasphemous rioting and quarreling are frequent enough in the "velvet room," and they are accompanied with vermin, rags, filth, and sodden sawdust. The "velvet room" cannot be described—that is, decently—nor can it be imagined by a decent person; it must be seen to be understood. No difference or distinction is made there between age, size, sex or color. The "bucket shop" is a leveler of every degree, and the "velvet room" is the even plane into which it rushes them. A most absolute and perfect freedom reigns there, the inhabitants being the judges of what is offensive and what is not. Habit brings indifference, and the result is that everything is permitted, and nothing is looked upon as out of the way. The sexes are on a most equal footing there, a woman being as good as a man as long as she has money to treat. Many of the frequenters of the "bucket shop" live in the "velvet room." The only time they spend out of it is while they are about the streets "grubbing" the money to buy "drinks." On entering the "shop" they never say whisky or alcohol or gin; only, "Gi' me a drink." If they were to use any of these names it would be merely as a pleasant little joke or a matter of fiction, for there is but one material in the place, although that is variously colored to give some foundation for the change, according to the mood or temper of the drinker.

When the "velvet room" is filled to its greatest extent the drinkers lie down upon the sloppy floor, on the barrels or anywhere they can find space. With a generosity not to be found among the upper classes of liquor dealers, the "bucket shop" man rarely turns his customers into the street when they are drunk. As soon as they enter his place is at their disposal, and they make the most of it. That in some measure accounts for the abundance of filth in all of them and the affection they seem to feel for it, as they rarely attempt to remove it. A reporter accompanied one of the inspectors of excise in his visits, and thus describes it: The "Morgue" was the first place that came in the line of inspection. It had been in full blast for a couple of hours when the inspector went in, and the result was all over the floor. The difference between it and the other Morgue was that it was much more crowded. Presently a tall, stout woman marched boldly in, and, stopping in front of the counter, said: "Gi' me a drink!" then, turning to a half sleeping man sitting on a box beside the counter and with his head leaning against it, she added:

"Get up, Bill, and take a drink."

"Bill" did not get up, for he was not able; but he held on to the counter and lifted himself into a sort of half-standing position in obedience to the invitation. While he was doing this—it took some time, although he was a young and vigorous looking man, and the barkeeper was filling the glasses—the woman walked over to another, sleeping on a pile of barrels against the walls opposite the counter, and slapping him soundly on the back, sworn out, in a loud, hoarse voice: "Full again, Fritz! That's the third time to-day! Well, I'm sorry for it, I'd like to have treated ye, I've got a quarter." She turned from him and to the counter. By that time the barkeeper had deposited the two "drinks" of alcohol and put down beside the glass another huge glass containing water. The woman grabbed one of the "drinks," looked at "Bill"—who was tremblingly reaching for the other—an instant, and said, "Here's to ye, Bill," and tossed down the drink, without a wink. She then touched her lips with the water in the huge glass. "Bill" declined it altogether, with a shake of the head, never vouchsafed a word to any one and quietly and slowly settled himself down again upon his box, as he had risen from it. The woman sauntered out as she had entered, the barkeeper resumed his dogged, imperturbable air, and the sleepers continued their snoring. Wherever you see two or three of these "bucket shops," you may be sure a pawnbroker is not far off. First the money goes for it, then the clothes, until none are left. Of a Sunday morning this place is full; while the people are going to and in church over the way, these here are in a state of drunkenness. There is a side door there leading into the hallway, through which they come in and go out, and you'll find heaps of them lying drunk in the backyard any Sunday.

Down the street was another very hard place. It was larger than the "Morgue," had more barrels in it and a more inviting "velvet room." It was was crowded too, in the shop and in the "velvet room," showing that business was in a thriving condition. Three or four men in the "room" were treating the same number of women, giving them drink from a large glass which seemed common to the party. In their midst was a good-sized black bottle, containing liquor, and on the floor was one of the women already drunk. Two of the others seemed well on the way to the same goal, the fourth, being stout and strong, young too, and not yet much weakened by the liquor, appeared likely to last out to the end of the course. Around the stove seven or eight men lounged heavy and silent, looking as if they had but one business in life, and that was to inhale the smoke and steam from that stove. But one man was asleep in the place, and he was on top of a huge pile of barrels against the side of the wall. A squeezing, half rubbing together movement of the hands was noticeable in all of them, and they were all bent in the shoulders, and had the same slouching, cringing, hang-dog carriage of the body. Not one stood erect or boldly like a man or lifted his eyes to meet those of another man. They had every one of them some feeling of being there on sufferance. They all showed their conviction of the knowledge on the part of the barkeeper that there was not a cent among them, or he would soon have it, and they hung about that stove with an air that plainly begged they should not be thrust into the street.

After going into five or six places in the same street, Hester street became the objectionable point of inquiry. From the gas house, on the corner of the street, the opposite block, just out of the Bowery, presented a striking panorama. At least a hundred women hovered and buzzed around it, going into the "shops" and coming out wiping their mouths with the backs of their hands. Almost every shop and basement in the block is devoted to the sale of liquors, and the customers of each are "unfortunates." In the basement there were sixteen women, and in a shop even with the sidewalk there were eleven when the inspector entered. Five of the eleven were standing drinking at a counter, from behind which a woman was serving them, and the other six were in the back room being waited on by the husband. From Hester street the inspector turned into Mott street, examined several "shops" in that thoroughfare and passed on to Bayard street. He went into two immense places in that street, nearly opposite each other. Both were doing a thriving business, and the customers in both were the same poor, bloated, ragged, shivering, miserable wretches. Standing in front of one, he pointed to a house on the north side of the street, about three doors from Baxter street, "That," he said, "is a private establishment. Let's go in. The "private establishment" consisted of two rooms off the first floor, but admission was not so easy as the inspector's invitation seemed to imply. When he pushed the door it would not yield, and after he had knocked several times it was only opened a few inches by a young woman who held in her hand the heavy bar that secured the place from unknown visitors. After a good deal of pushing and demanding on the part of the inspector the young woman finally opened the door and admission was obtained.

In the front room was a kind of counter, behind it a counter containing few bottles and glasses, and on it three bits of candles in brass candlesticks that gave light to the place. Against the partition that divided off the rear compartment, in which the family lived, were three huge casks of alcohol, and at a table near one of the windows at the other end of the room were four children, seated around a table, playing with a pack of cards. A child just able to stand, was at the head of one of the enormous casks; with its hand upon the wooden spigot, and with the other it caught up some of the drops that were falling into a bucket and brought them (it was a girl) to her mouth. The mother of the children was in the back room when the inspector made his appearance; but she quickly came forward and took her evidently accustomed place behind the bar. "This 'shop,'" said the inspector, "is frequented by a set of quiet people, who come here to play cards, get drunk and sleep." There is no sign out, no evidence of what is going on within on the front, and the upper part of the house is inhabited by the usual occupants of tenements. Here they have it on the premises, no necessity to go out. Eight or ten other "shops" ended the inspection for the night.

A Valuable Institution.

"The Fraternity," is the name given to an unostentatious but valuable institution in Salem, Massachusetts. Similar charities are established in many cities, but "The Fraternity" has some features peculiar to itself. The boys of the streets are invited to come to the well-lighted, warm and comfortable rooms of this establishment and enjoy themselves. They may talk, play at games, read, listen to music, or, if they choose, be instructed in the rudiments of education, or even in more advanced studies. The main room is devoted to amusements, being furnished with small tables and chairs. A lady directress sits in this room and gives out the checkers, dominoes, puzzles, or whatever articles are required for the games, all gambling games being prohibited. Adjoining this room is a reading-room amply provided with newspapers and magazines, and connected with it is a library of about 1,500 volumes. These books are loaned to the boys, and it is a noteworthy fact that out of the large number taken out not more than half a dozen have been lost, although no other pledge is exacted for their return than the name and residence of the borrower. There is a room, also, devoted to instruction. Sometimes an amusing or instructive lecture is given, suited to the tastes and capacities of the audience. The boys go and come as they please. All that is required of them is to behave as well as they can. And it is remarkable what restraint they maintain, how clean and tidy they try to make themselves, and how much comfort and enjoyment they seem to take in the arrangements made for them. Although the evening visitors vary from two to six hundred, seldom is any boy sent away for misconduct. If any excitement occurs, a few persuasive words from the directress is sufficient to quiet it. Girls are allowed the privileges of the library, and recently a suggestion has been made that an amusement room should be provided for them also. Institutions similar to "The Fraternity" may well be multiplied. Pleasant occupation in cheerful rooms will keep street boys from mischief, from crime, and from prison.

The Royal Present.

A reporter was permitted to see Mrs. Fitch's regal present at the New York Custom-house. Eight immense round stones, surrounded by smaller ones, are linked together at equal distances by two rows of smaller stones, four of the links containing twenty stones each, and four others sixteen stones each. Another row of smaller diamonds is fastened in five festoons to the lower row of the front links, at equidistant intervals from each of the large diamonds. From each point of contact hangs an immense pear-shaped diamond, surrounded by smaller diamonds, the fastening being of filagree gold work, dotted with still smaller diamonds. There are seven of these pendants. On each side of the center pendant, and between the festoon and the lower row of the main link, is a medallion of filagree gold work, studded with large and small diamonds. The central ones of these on the left medallion, a stone of about four carats, is pronounced by experts to be the best stone in the collection on account of its exquisite purity and brilliancy. The diamonds are so arranged that they gradually increase in size from the back toward the front, except in the festoons, in each of which the largest diamond is in the center, the others graduating upward toward the point of fastening. The link, festoon, and surrounding diamonds range from one to four carats in size. The large round stone in front is five-eighths of an inch in diameter, and the others are but little smaller. So much for the necklace. The upper part of each ear-ring is composed of two solitaire stones, of four and six carats respectively, one above the other, the lower one set in gold filagree work dotted with small diamonds. Beneath these, from a gold branch studded with small diamonds, hangs an immense pear-shaped diamond, surrounded by smaller diamonds to match the necklace. The jewel casket is of red morocco, stamped with a gilt flowered border, and lined below with dark purple velvet, and above with lavender-colored silk.

How a Little Boy Died.

A Virginia City (Nev.) paper has this little paragraph: "Little Eddie Nye, who was run over by a flat car last evening, and was so badly injured that he died next morning, was a rare bright child, and one of the best children in the city. Just before he died he sang 'The Beautiful River,' with a voice as sweet as though he had caught the tones from the softer shore, on the brink of which his spirit was then trembling. After the song he repeated a little prayer which his mother had taught him. The child all his life had a lisp, but his last prayer fell from his tongue without a halt or quaver, but rather steady and clear, and yet with a far-off tone, as though another's voice of infinite sweetness had seized upon his lips in the supreme moment, to leave an echo in his anguished mother's ears which should last as long as life. Shortly after the little prayer, the sunny eyes closed and little Eddie was gone. On Sunday his funeral attracted the whole city, and there was not a dry eye around the dear child's bier."

A Cure for Diphtheria.

A correspondent says: Take a flat iron and heat it a little on the stove; on this apply a very little pitch (not gas) tar, have the iron hot enough to make a good smoke. Then let the patient take into his mouth the small end of a funnel, and have the smoke blown through the funnel into his mouth. Let the smoke be inhaled well into the throat for a few minutes five or six times a day. In very bad cases, it might be well to use it oftener. After this, let the patient lie on his back then break up small pieces of ice and put them into his mouth, and let them go as far down to the roots of the tongue as possible. When they have dissolved, put in some more; this will keep down the inflammation.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Items of Interest from Home and Abroad.

A railroad train containing King Alfonso and his suite was fired into by Carlists.....The bank building, the Congregational Church, and several other buildings at Farmington, N. H., were destroyed by fire. Loss, $100,000. .....Two children of Julius Block, at Portsmouth, Ohio, were scalded to death by the upsetting of a water boiler on the stove. Mrs. Black was also badly scalded in trying to save them.....In the United States district court, Trenton, N. J., Judge Nixon fined James Parker and James Griffin $2,000 and costs for selling liquor and tobacco without having paid the special tax.....A Berlin special dispatch says Prince Bismarck has given no intimation to any one that he intends to resign, and he is likely to remain in office as long as health permits. .....For the first time in forty years people crossed the North river at New York on the ice during the cold snap.....The new tariff bill of the United States proposes to tax high wines $1 per gallon. The tax is now seventy cents. It increases the duty on imported liquors. It adds four cents per pound to tobacco. It repeals the tax on matches. It adds twenty-five per cent to the tax on syrups and molasses, and puts on the ten per cent taken from various imports some time since.

The recent arrest of a man in Hayti with a human head in his possession has led to the discovery of a society of cannibals in the interior. Their chief, Tonie, and eighty of his accomplices have been captured. It has been proved that they were addicted to eating human flesh, and all will be executed. The head has been identified as that of a woman who disappeared some time ago. Her body has since been found with portions missing. .....The Rev. Arthur Brooks, of St. James Church, Chicago, has resigned and accepted a call to the Church of the Incarnation, New York, at a salary of $10,000.....The United States National Association of Stove Manufacturers have fixed the rate at which stoves are to be sold at 6¼ cents a pound for common, 7 cents for medium, and 8 cents for best.....The insurgent General Ducharme has been killed and his whole staff taken prisoners in Peru. Gen. Quevedo has routed the remaining insurgents at Guiria, in the eastern part of the republic. Peace has been re-established in the east and center. In the west the trouble is limited to the State of Coro, and there it is expected to end soon.....News from Bolivia says that the passengers of the steamer Yanoare, of Lake Titicaca, describe the condition of affairs as still worse than before reported. In the revolution of December 23, in favor of Quesada, the town of La Paz was sacked and over 700 inhabitants, including many old men, women and children, were put to the sword. The pillage and murder lasted four days..... The proposition of the Conservatives in Louisiana for a settlement of the difficulties there has been rejected.

The Spanish government has issued a decree calling out 70,000 men for military service, 15,000 of whom are to be sent to Cuba.....The Bank of Spain has advanced the government of King Alfonso 100,000,000 reals.....Prussia has prohibited the importation of American potatoes.....The widow of the late Emperor of China did not commit suicide, as was reported. Her Majesty is said to be *enceinte*, and, should the issue be a son, he will be the legitimate heir to the throne.....The Tilton-Beecher trial was postponed on account of Mr. Evarts and one juryman being delayed by the ice on the East river .....A fire in Hartford, Conn., destroyed property valued at $230,000. .....The Judiciary committee of the New York Assembly was instructed to investigate the charges that alterations had been made in the last year's Supply bill.....Railway travel was greatly impeded in the North and West by snow and ice during the late storm. Many roads were entirely closed.....A man, supposed to be Bender, the notorious Kansas murderer, was captured in Arizona by two men who had tracked him through Western Texas and New Mexico.....The New York State Senate confirmed the nomination of A. Melvin Osborn, of Greene county, to be justice of the supreme court in the third judicial district in place of Theodore Miller, resigned.....Savigny, the distinguished Ultramontane, is dead.....A grand jury in Chicago has indicted all the papers there for publishing lottery advertisements.....A resolution was adopted in the New York Legislature calling on Congress to extend the time in which soldiers are required to settle on homestead lands.....One boy was burned to death and another seriously injured by a fire in London, Ontario.....The National Grangers adopted a resolution that manufactures ought to be encouraged in the South.

The new Bounty bill, passed by the United States House, proposes to pay $8.33⅓ per month to all soldiers and sailors who served in the war of the rebellion, deducting from this amount the bounties already paid by the general government and States. It will cost, it is estimated, from seventy-five to one hundred millions of dollars.....A den was broken up in New York in which an old man had seventy-five boys, from eight to fifteen years of age, of whom he was making thieves.....It is said that during the cold weather in New York the water pipes were frozen, and that a fire under even ordinary circumstances would have proved a Chicago or Boston conflagration..... The National Grange adopted a resolution asking the United States Congress to aid the Texas Pacific railroad.....Rufus Hatch swears that $2,000,000 were taken from the Pacific Mail treasury by its officers on false vouchers ..... The barracks of Fort Sill, Kansas, were burned and all the Indian prisoners escaped.....Poor Marshal Bazaine receives nothing but insults from Frenchmen in Spain.....Judge Wellford, of the circuit court of Richmond, Virginia, rendered a decision that no encumbrance can be made to sell property of the State for debt.....Sixteen business houses were burned at Independence, Mo.....Gov. Gaston, of Massachusetts, has signed the new State Detective bill, abolishing the present constabulary on the 1st of March.....Evan Morris, of Pittsburgh, Penn., has issued a challenge to row any man in the United States a five-mile single-scull race for $1,000 to $2,000 a side. The race to take place in April on the Monongahela, at Pittsburgh.

A riot occurred recently among the Chinese prisoners in the Singapore jail, and sixty-seven persons were killed, including sixteen of the keepers of the jail.....In the British House of Commons, Mr. Lopes, by the advice of Mr. Disraeli, apologized for and withdrew the offensive expressions he had used in regard to the Irish Home Rulers.....A fire at Darien, Ga., destroyed property valued at $100,000. It was the work of an incendiary.... Henry G. Freeman, the oldest member of the Philadelphia bar, excepting Horace Binney, died recently, in the eighty-sixth year of his age. He was admitted to the bar in 1800.....Mrs. McCarthy was found dead on the floor of her house in Portsmouth, N. H., having frozen to death while intoxicated .....Darcy Boulton, Q. C., M. P. P., and Grand Master of the Ontario Orange Grand Lodge, died suddenly in Toronto of apoplexy.....In the English House of Commons Mr. Bourke, Under Secretary for the Foreign Department, in reply to an inquiry by Mr. O'Leary, said that instructions would be sent to Mr. Layard, the British Minister at Madrid, to recognize Alfonso as King of Spain.

There is still talk of serious troubles between China and Japan.....The Pacific Mail is trying hard to secure its subsidy.....Another proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for the election of President and Vice-President by the people is before the United States Congress..... Aspinwall has again been outraging an English subject and trouble is apprehended.....A bill is before the Pennsylvania Legislature authorizing the use of unclaimed bodies of convicts and others for the promotion of medical science.....General Burnside, at a banquet in Providence, R. I., said that he saw no great occasion for alarm in the election to Congress by the Southern people of a large number of ex-officers of the Confederate army.....The constitutional amendments were passed by the House of New Jersey, and to make them law they must be accepted by a vote at special election.....John Mitchell has been elected to the British Parliament from County Tipperary, Ireland. Mr. Disraeli gave notice in the House that he would move a resolution declaring him incapable of election, as he had been convicted of felony, and sentenced to transportation....Henry Walters, aged seventy-one years, escaped from Auburn prison by scaling the wall.....Dr. Kenealy, counsel for the claimant in the recent Tichborne trial, has been elected to the British Parliament from Stoke-upon-Trent....The United States House of Representatives passed the bill for the reorganization of the Treasury department..... The Connecticut Democratic State Convention nominated the present State officers by acclamation. The platform declares in favor of hard money, the supremacy of the civil over the military authority, and against Federal interference in the South.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

Senate.

The committee on naval affairs reported unfavorably on the bills authorizing the President to purchase a site for a coaling station, navy depot, and other government uses at Fort Point, Port Royal, S. C.; and authorizing the purchase of the harbor, privileges, and land for the establishment of a naval and coaling station in the Samoan Islands.

Mr. Hitchcock, of Nebraska, called up the House bill to perfect the United States government's guarantee of the District of Columbia 3.65 bonds, and to authorize them to be registered at the United States Treasury, and it was passed.

Mr. Conkling, of New York, presented a memorial of the Chamber of Commerce of New York city, asking for an appropriation to enable Gen. Newton to continue the work in which he is engaged in regard to the improvement in New York harbor.

The Senate bill to grant a site for the Peabody school in St. Augustine, Fla., was taken up, to which there was an amendment pending, submitted at the last session by Mr. Edmunds, providing that if at any time any distinction shall be made in the admission of pupils on account of race or color, the site shall revert to the United States, and it was rejected—yeas, 23; nays, 24. Messrs. Cameron, Ferry, Gilbert, Morrill, Schurz and Sprague were among those who voted in the negative.

Mr. Alcorn, of Mississippi, said the vote indicated the fact that the Republicans had become thoroughly demoralized on the subject of civil rights.

The bill was passed without a division.

The House bill authorizing the President to appoint a commissioner to attend the International Penitentiary Congress, to be held in Rome next year, was passed.

On the consideration of the bill to provide a government for the District of Columbia, Mr. Morton's amendment, to have the commissioners elected by the qualified voters of the District, instead of appointed by the President, was defeated by a vote of—yeas, 28; nays, 28.

Mr. Anthony, of Rhode Island, presented the credentials of Ambrose E. Burnside, United States Senator from the State of Rhode Island for a period of six years from March 4, 1875. Read and placed on file.

The Senate bill providing for the construction of the Portland, Dalles and Salt Lake railroad and telegraph, and for the performance of all government service free of charge, was taken up.

While the bill was being read, Mr. Sherman, of Ohio, objected to its further reading, and stated that as it was a subsidy bill, the Senate would not pass it, and therefore it was useless to take up time by reading it.

Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon, denied that it was a subsidy bill, and thought it would save money to the treasury.

The bill was rejected by a vote of 46 to 2.

Mr. Conkling, of New York, reported from the Judiciary committee a bill to fix the salaries of the district judges of the United States for the northern and southern districts of New York, which provides that the salaries of those judges shall be $6,000 per annum from and after April 1, 1875. Passed.

Mr. Ferry, of Connecticut, presented the credentials of W. W. Eaton, appointed Senator from the State of Connecticut, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Wm. A. Buckingham. Mr. Eaton being present, was escorted to the Vice-President's desk by Mr. Ferry, and the oath of office was administered to him by Vice-President Wilson.

Mr. Sargent, of California, presented the memorial of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, remonstrating against the repeal of the act of June 1, 1872, granting a subsidy for the mail service between San Francisco, Japan and China, and praying for an appropriation to carry mail subsidy regularly. Ordered to be printed, and referred to the committee on appropriations.

The memorial urges that its repeal would not only cause a loss of millions of dollars to innocent stockholders and to their steamship builders, but would also be a quasi acknowledgment that Congress was bribed to pass the act of 1872, although the committee investigating the scandalous assertion has not yet made its report, and the testimony so far has utterly failed to show any truth in the charge.

The Senate, in considering the bill to provide a government for the District of Columbia, agreed to an amendment providing that claims allowed under the act of June 20, 1874, shall be presented for exchange within four months from the passage of this act, and if not so presented, the privilege of thus exchanging shall not be exercised by any holder of any such claim. Also excluding the sinking fund commissioners of the District of Columbia from issuing any bond, as provided in the act of June 20, 1874, after the expiration of four months from the passage of this act, and providing that nothing contained in this act shall be construed in any manner to pledge the faith of the United States to the payment of any debt of the District of Columbia, or of the cities of Washington and Georgetown, other than provided for by the act of 1874, and amendments thereto, as to the 50-year bonds therein referred to.

They also amended the section which makes it a misdemeanor to sell or give liquor without doing licensed by adding a clause exempting private residences and societies not of a business character, and changed the compulsory education section to read children "between the ages of eight and fifteen years," instead of six and eighteen, as reported by the committee.

Mr. Conkling, of New York, presented memorials of fifty medical societies and institutions in the State of New York in favor of such legislation as will promote the efficiency of the medical corps of the army.

Mr. Gordon presented similar ones from physicians of Georgia. Referred to the committee on military affairs.

Mr. Hitchcock, of Nebraska, presented the credentials of A. S. Paddock, Senator-elect from the State of Nebraska, for a period of six years from March 4, 1875. Read and placed on file.

The House bill for the equalization of bounties was read twice, and referred to the committee on military affairs.

The Speaker presented a letter from the Clerk in reference to the resignation of Mr. Furman, of Florida, and directed the name of Mr. Furman to be stricken from the roll of members.

House.

Mr. Albright, of Pennsylvania, from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill to constitute a national cemetery out of the parcel of ground ceded to the United States in the Hospital Hill cemetery at York, Pa., in which soldiers from sixteen States are interred. Passed.

Mr. Myers, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill supplementary to the acts in relation to immigration. Referred to the committee on foreign affairs. The bill has reference especially to the coolie trade. It provides that when immigrants have entered into a contract or agreement for a term of service within the United States, either for labor or for lewd or improper purposes, such immigration shall not be deemed voluntary, and the United States Consul shall not deliver the required permit or certificate. It makes it a penal offense for American citizens to be engaged in such trade. It also makes the immigration of the following classes unlawful: Persons who are undergoing sentence for felonious crimes other than political, or whose sentences have been remitted on account of their immigration, and women imported for the purposes of prostitution.

Mr. Clayton, of Arkansas, introduced a bill construing the act to place the colored persons who enlisted in the army on the same footing as other soldiers as to bounty and pensions. Referred to the committee on military affairs.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the Post-office Appropriation bill. The amounts recommended to be appropriated are: For the general service of the Post-office department, $36,060,861; for steamship service, $537,500; for official postage stamps for the use of the Post-office department, $986,000; total, $37,524,361; to be provided for as follows: By the revenues of the department, estimated at $29,148,156; by an appropriation for deficiency out of the treasury, $6,852,705; by direct appropriations out of the treasury, $1,523,500. The total amount recommended by this bill is less than the estimates therefor by $1,538,173. The decrease is in the amount to provide for the general service of the department $963,173, and in the amount recommended for steamship service $575,000. The items for steamship service are: $530,000 for steamship service between San Francisco, Japan and China, under act of February 17, 1865; and $37,500 for the Brazilian mail steamship service.

Mr. Tyner, of Illinois, who had charge of the bill, explained it, and stated that the expense of the department was five per cent. less than last year, while the increase of business was eight to ten per cent. more.

Mr. Holman, of Indiana, moved to amend by adding a proviso to the railroad mail transportation item, providing that no money should be used to increase the rate of compensation to any railway company beyond that now paid; the amendment was lost.

Mr. Merriam, of New York, offered as an amendment that no assessment for political purposes shall hereafter be made on post-office clerks; but it was rejected on a point of order.

Mr. Smith, of Ohio, moved an amendment repealing the law of 1872 for subsidizing mail steamship service to Japan and China, and annulling the contract made under it, which was agreed to without discussion.

The House in Committee of the Whole, resumed the consideration of the Post-office Appropriation bill. The bill and its amendments was adopted except the one allowing members to send public documents and seeds free.

Mr. Gunckel, of Ohio, from the committee on military affairs, reported a bill to equalize bounties.

The bill provides for the payment to every non-commissioned officer, musician, artificer, wagoner, and private soldier (including those borne on the rolls as absentees), who served in the army and were honorably discharged, of $8.33⅓ per month for the term of his service, between April 12, 1861, and May 9, 1865, with a deduction of all bounties heretofore paid by the United States and by States. Substitutes, or such as were prisoners of war at the time of enlistment are excluded; also such as were discharged as minors, or at their own request from other causes than disability incurred in the service, prior to April 19, 1865, unless such discharge was obtained with a view to re-enlistment or to accept promotion in the military or naval service. Where the soldier is dead the bounty is to be paid to the widow (if not married), or the minor child or children.

The Paymaster-General estimated that it would take $137,000,000 to pay the bounties as provided in the bill, while the Second Comptroller said $101,000,000 would do it.

Messrs. Hawley and Kellogg, of Connecticut, commented on the injustice of requiring States which had already paid bounties to their soldiers to be taxed for the benefit of those States that had not done so.

Mr. Willard, of Vermont, opposed the bill on the same ground, and showed that Vermont had paid all her soldiers a bounty of $7.00 per month, and they would simply realize the difference between that amount and $8.33⅓ per month.

Mr. Small, of New Hampshire, also opposed the bill, and said that as his State had paid bounties during the war, her soldiers would not now receive a dollar from this money, although the State would be taxed to help pay the soldiers of other States.

Further discussions were indulged in by Messrs. Dawes, Garfield, Sypher, Gunckel, Coburn, Speer, and Dunnell.

Mr. Comingo's amendment, making the bill apply to the Union regiments, was agreed to.

Mr. Myer's amendment, to include sailors and mariners, was agreed to.

An amendment offered by Mr. Shanks, of Indiana, to include Indians, was also agreed to.

The bill was then passed—yeas, 177; nays, 39.

Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution directing the Judiciary committee to inquire whether the Western Union Telegraph Company has refused to transmit dispatches for the American Press Association, or any other parties, among the several States, on account of criticism by such association on the telegraph company, with power to send for persons and papers. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Hoar, of Massachusetts, the House bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy, engineer in the navy, to accept a wedding present sent to his wife by the Khedive of Egypt, was taken from the Speaker's table and passed.

On motion of Mr. Potter, of New York, the bill allowing the district judge of Vermont his salary during life on his resignation on account of permanent illness, was taken from the Speaker's table and passed.

The bill which came over for the redemption of overdue United States bonds, known as Texas indemnity bonds, was passed: 112 yeas to 43 nays.

The House took up as a special order the bill reported from the committee on civil service reform by Mr. Kellogg, of Connecticut, for the reorganization of the Treasury department.

Mr. Young, of Georgia, offered an amendment requiring the appointments of the department to be distributed among the States and Territories in proportion to the population. Agreed to.

The bill was then passed—yeas, 128; nays, 30. Of the principal officers it fixes the salaries as follows: Secretary, $8,000; two assistant secretaries, $4,500 each; chief clerk, $3,000; supervising architect, $4,000; first comptroller, $5,000; second comptroller, $5,000; commissioner of customs, $4,500; first, second, third, fourth and fifth auditors, $4,000 each; auditor for the Post-office department, $4,000; register, $4,000; treasurer, $6,500; comptroller of the currency, $5,000; commissioner of internal revenue, $6,000.

Mr. Myers, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to return to the government of Japan one-half of the indemnity fund paid by that government to the United States under the convention of October 22, 1864, and to dispose of the balance of said fund. Referred to the committee on foreign affairs.

Section one of the bill directs the return to Japan of $375,000 with interest, being the remaining half of the Japan indemnity fund paid by Japan. Section two directs payment to the officers and crews of the Wyoming and Kiang of $125,000 out of this fund for their services in the battles at the Straits of Simonoseki, which resulted in the treaty. Section three directs that $300,000 of the registered bonds, to which half of this fund is invested, shall remain under the control of the Secretary of State, the interest to be paid by him for the education of a limited number of American and Japanese youths in the languages of either country, to serve as interpreters and assistants to the legations and consuls of the United States. Section four transfers the balance of the Japanese indemnity fund to the treasury of the United States.

The Year of Jubilee.

The recent encyclical letter of Pope Pius IX., addressed to bishops and priests and their Catholic congregations throughout the world, prescribes rules to be adopted for the celebration of the Jubilee of 1875. The Jubilee was instituted by Boniface VIII., in 1600, who decreed that it should be celebrated once in a century. The interval was afterward shortened to fifty, then to thirty-three, and finally to twenty-five years. A more important change was effected by the successors of Boniface VIII., who gave the Jubilee the character of a pilgrimage to Rome, by granting indulgences only to those who had visited the churches of St. Peter and St. Paul, but it was afterward decided that attendance at the cathedral or parish churches of the district in which the persons joining in the jubilee resided should entitle them to all its privileges