FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Orchard and Nursery.

FENCES AND GATES.—Look after the fences and gates, and see that they are closed against stray cattle, which may destroy young trees, by breaking of limbs, or in many cases snapping off the whole tree and thus completely ruin it.

Young trees set this fall should have a mound of earth, a foot or more in height, raised around the foot of the stem, to steady them during heavy winds and prevent their being thrown by frost. This is less trouble and better than stakes.

MICE AND RABBITS.—After snow-storms tramp the snow firmly around the trunks, to keep away mice. A strip of tarred paper, a foot or more wide, tied around the base, will prevent both rabbits and mice from gnawing. Blood sprinkled upon the trunks is the best to keep off rabbits on a large scale. Trap or shoot all rabbits found in the orchards or garden, as they destroy shrubs as well as trees.

Pruning may be done during spells of mild weather, provided the cuts are covered with a coat of paint, melted grafting wax, or shellac varnish, to protect the surface from the weather.

CIONS.—Cut at any time when the trees are not frozen, and store in sawdust or sand in the cellar. Have every variety labeled as soon as cut.

HEELED-IN TREES.—There is no danger of loss if the earth is properly worked in around the roots and the air is excluded. If there is danger of water settling around the trees during the winter, make drains to carry it off. Clean away rubbish, so that no mice can find a harboring place among them.

Peach stones should be buried in a dry place, so as to have the full effects of the frosts. Put plum and cherry stones in boxes with earth.

ROOT GRAFTING.—Store the stocks in earth in the cellar, and during cold and stormy days grafts them, taking care to keep the varies distinct.—*Agriculturist.*

Winter Oats.

Of late we have noticed several articles going the rounds of the agricultural press, the writers of which speak highly of what are termed "winter oats." From the tone of these articles, as well as from inquiries received from correspondents asking for further information in regard to these oats, we are inclined to believe that many persons are misled into thinking that they are new or distinct varieties from those known to our Northern farmers. But these so-called winter oats receive their name from the common practice of sowing this grain in the fall in many parts of the Middle and Southern States, instead of the spring, as is the general practice in colder latitudes. The oat is what may be called a half-hardy animal, and where the winter is not too severe it may be sown with safety in the fall, and the plants will come out in spring even more vigorous than if the sowing was delayed to the latter season. Some of our Southern farmers who have considerable experience in this matter assure us that fall-sown oats are always more certain and far less liable to rust than those sown in spring.

Of course, there are different varieties cultivated in the South as well as in the North, some being better adapted to the climate than others; but those originating in Vermont may prove after trial to be just as good a winter oat as one pronounced in Georgia. There are no distinctive characteristics by which winter oats can be distinguished from spring or summer oats; but, through repeated trials certain sorts are found to succeed better in the South when sown in the fall than in spring, and to these the above name is applied.

Farm Work.

REGULARITY OF WORK.—The fine weather has enabled farmers to finish up their fall work, and push on with that for spring. It would be well to keep on as long as the weather remains favorable, for we know not what spring may bring forth. Work should be done with regularity, and not by "fits and starts." At this season the hours of work may be shortened, and the day's labor be finished at four o'clock. There is much work that may be done indoors; reading, studying, planning for the future, which are all equally as necessary to be done as plowing and digging drains. By apportioning the time to different labors, one may often get through more work than in other ways. System is everything in planning work, and goes a great way in doing it. By economizing the time, there may be five hours daily set apart for reading.

About the house everything should be done to make things snug, and all requisitions made by the housekeepers attended to at once. Winter time is an exacting period for housekeepers, and everything should be done to relieve their necessary work of much of its weight. Fuel should be put under cover, and properly prepared for convenient use. Drains should be made to carry off water; a place provided for slops and waste, where they may be saved for use as fertilizers; the cellar thoroughly cleaned, whitewashed and protected; shelves put up where needed; porches for protection around the doors and well should be made, and all these done without considering that any undue calls are made upon the patience or the time of the farmer or mechanic. The home should be considered first.—*Agriculturist.*

Cooking the Fodder for Dairy Stock.

A correspondent writes that he has been advised to adopt the practice of cooking food for his dairy stock the coming winter. He desires to know "if there are any objections that have been urged against the practice, and if so, what they are."

While the cooking of food for stock has been warmly urged by various writers in this country for a number of years past, the practice does not seem to be received with especial favor by farmers, or at least it has not spread to the extent that we should naturally suppose it would if all the advantages claimed for such feeding can be relied upon. What seems most remarkable in connection with this practice is that it has never found general favor in England, where cattle foods are comparatively dear, and where the economy of feeding is made a study by scientific and practical minds. The English feeder prefers to cut his straw and coarse fodder into chaff, mingling with it pulped turnips and allowing the mass to slightly ferment before feeding. It is stated by English authorities that cooked food is liable to induce various diseases in young stock, heifers being attacked with black leg, black quarter, speed, etc., while other cattle suffer from splenetic apoplexy, sheep from broxy, and horses from albuminous nephrites, particularly when cooked food has been given.

To Kill Cabbage Worms.

Hot water is recommended to be applied to cabbages that are infested with the *pieris rapæ*—sprinkled on from a fine rose watering can. The water may be boiling hot when put in the can, but it will not be too hot when it reaches the cabbage leaves. The thick fleshy nature of the leaves enables them to withstand considerable heat with very little injury. The sacrifice of a few heads of cabbage will soon teach an experimenter how far he can go with the hot water. A *Rural Home* correspondent speaks also from his own experience, and says: I heat water to nearly a boiling heat, and put it on with a common watering pot, with the sprinkler removed. If it is very hot it will color some of the leaves, but it does not seem to hurt the cabbage in the least. This will kill the young worms and nearly all the old ones. There will sometimes be a few that do not get touched with the water. These can be picked off with a small pair of pincers. If there are not a great many, the last remedy will do.

A gentleman, on walking out one Sunday evening, met a young Scotch peasant girl, whose parents lived near his house. "Where are you going, Jenny?" said he. "Looking for a son-in-law for my mother, sir."

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Interesting Items from Home and Abroad.

Judge Bond, of the United States court, decided the *habeas corpus* case of the board of State canvassers of South Carolina, and discharged the members from arrest under the contempt proceedings of the supreme court of the State..... The report of the Democratic committee who went to Louisiana has been made. The committee quote from the election laws to show that the returning board had no jurisdiction over the electoral vote, there being no law as to who shall count the vote whatever. They say that the law was not complied with as to protests by supervisors from the intimidated parishes. They do not deny that there was no lawlessness, but they do not admit that intimidation was proved. They report that colored men in Louisiana are not necessarily Republicans.

New York city revenue officers captured an illicit distillery which, with its contents, was valued at $45,000..... A widow named Collins, while temporarily insane, drowned her two little daughters in the canal at Bryson, Can. The body of one of them has been recovered. ..... Valparaiso suffered from a large conflagration, which burned for two days and destroyed a vast amount of property..... The naval commission reports in favor of abandoning the naval establishments at New Orleans, New Orleans and Brunswick, Ga..... The Colorado Legislature elected the Hon. Henry A. Teller as United States Senator for six years, beginning next March..... New Hampshire's Constitutional convention voted to abolish the religious test and to hold the elections in November biennially..... By the brigantine Capt. Siteman driving ashore at Herring Cove, near Halifax, during the recent heavy storm, four persons were drowned..... F. O. Prince, Democratic candidate for mayor of Boston, was elected by a majority of 2,500.

Congressman A. S. Hewitt, chairman of the Democratic national executive committee, has issued the following address, by order of the committee: To the people of the United States: The national Democratic committee announces as the result of the Presidential election held on the seventh of November, the election of Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, as President, and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, as Vice-President of the United States. We congratulate you on the victory for reform. It now only remains for the two Houses of Congress, in the performance of their duty on the second Wednesday of February next, to give effect to the will of the people, thus expressed in the Constitutional mode by a majority of the electoral votes, and confirmed by a majority of all the States, as well as by an overwhelming majority of all the people of the United States. In reply to this, Z. Chandler, chairman of the national Republican committee, has issued the following: An address has been issued by the Democratic committee. It is the last desperate attempt to prop a falling cause. Gov. Hayes has been fairly elected by a clear majority of the electoral votes. There is no indication that any rightminded citizen has a doubt as to the result. The address of the Democratic committee is an impudent and audacious attempt to prejudice and pervert the public judgment. Hayes and Wheeler are elected, and the will of the American people will be carried out and maintained.

By the breaking of an icebridge in the Ohio near Cincinnati a railway bridge was carried off, and a number of coal barges swept away. New York city banks are endeavoring to have their taxes reduced ..... Intense suffering exists among the poor of New York, and the city missionaries continually appeal for aid. ..... The Democratic State central committee of New Hampshire adopted resolutions declaring their belief in the election of Mr. Tilden, and calling on all fair minded men of all parties to secure his inauguration..... In Indiana the Democrats have called for mass meetings to be held in different parts of the State to consider the political situation ..... In many of the Western cities one hundred and eighty-five guns were fired by the Republicans as a signification of their belief that Gov. Hayes was elected President..... The United States war steamer Michigan, which has been stationed on Lake Erie, has virtually been put out of commission—nearly all the officers having been transferred and the crew discharged..... Third-class Midshipmen Joseph Beal, of Washington, and R. M. Barclay, of Missouri, were dismissed from the Annapolis naval academy for hazing ..... The president of Brooklyn's board of health, after witnessing the cremation of Baron de Palm, says that he is not convinced of the "necessity nor adaptability of the process to our times and country. .....Fourteen steamers, which had been laid up in winter quarters at St. Louis, were caught in an ice jam which came from above and were crushed, several of them being totally wrecked. The losses amount to $250,000.

In an altercation in Albany, N. Y., Mrs. Robert McDonald, in defense of herself from an assault by her husband, shot him in the head..... Reports from Little Rock, Ark., are to the effect that a most disastrous conflagration raged in the city, doing great damage, and at one time threatened the entire place with destruction..... The most disastrous fire which has visited Augusta, Me., in twelve years is reported. The losses amount to $20,000 ..... Wm. M. Ream, a banker of Somerset, Ohio, was taken from his bed by masked men and forced to open the bank vault under penalty of death. The men took therefrom $10,200 and escaped. On the alarm being given, the citizens scoured the country unsuccessfully. ..... Gen. Crook's forces are in camp on the north fork of the Belle Fourche, recuperating for future action..... A $40,000 incendiary fire is reported from Blackville, S. C., and another from Florence, in the same State.... By the sinking of the steamer Homer in the Red river ten deck passengers were drowned. The vessel and cargo were a total loss..... Mayor Wickham, of New York, was appointed by Judge Brady receiver of the Security life insurance company, which has failed with liabilities of $3,450,000 and assets of $1,943,000.

President Grant, in his letter to the United States Senate, replying to the resolution requesting information as to "whether troops of the United States were stationed at the city of Petersburg, in the State of Virginia, on the seventh of November, 1876," answers: "It may be that the presence of twenty-four United States soldiers, under the command of a captain and lieutenant, quartered in the custom house of Petersburg, Va., on the seventh of November, at a considerable distance from any polling place, without any interference on their part whatever, and without going near the polls during election, *may have secured a different result from what would have been obtained if they had not been there* (to maintain the peace in case of riot) *on the face of the returns.* But if such is the case, it is only proof that in this one congressional district in the State of Virginia the legal and constitutional voters have been able to return as elected the candidates of their choice." The italics are the President's. He also sends to the Senate a communication from General Sherman in which the general states that a detachment of troops was necessary at Petersburg to preserve the peace, and they were sent. The inclosure also embraces affidavits, etc., relative to the necessity for troops at Petersburg, covering some thirty pages of manuscript..... Wade Hampton was inaugurated governor by the Democratic Legislature of South Carolina, being sworn in by Judge T. J. Mackey. The ceremony of inauguration having been concluded, he was lifted upon the shoulders of the multitude and carried through the streets from Carolina Hall to the Wheeler House in the same block, where he delivered his inaugural address, in which he protested against the acts of the [illegible] party and Gov. Chamberlain [illegible] peace but earnestness in all a[illegible]

The official returns show [illegible] cratic electors for the State [illegible] received 103,612 votes; [illegible] 44,552 votes. Democratic [illegible] 060. Total vote, 148,164, against [illegible] last State election of 200,081 [illegible] ty-two buildings were burned in Bolivar, Tenn., many of them occupied by prominent business firms. The losses amount to $200,000; insurance, $20,000. The original fire is supposed to have been incendiary..... The losses in Little Rock fire aggregate $140,000, [illegible] insurance $50,000. There is not a first-class hotel left in the city..... During an altercation on a steamboat at New Orleans, two colored men were shot by a white deck hand [illegible] attempting to return to the steamer [illegible] put off. A crowd of colored men gathered and as the police were taking these [illegible] to the station house, they were overpowered and their prisoner taken from them. White men then recaptured the prisoner, and on a reenforced body of the police attempting to remove him to the central station, they were set upon by the infuriated mob of colored men with stones and pistols, when the police returned the fire. Twenty colored men and four white men were injured.... Inspector-General Jas. A. Hardie died in Washington..... An excursion train consisting of an engine and one coach was thrown from the track near Lafayette, Ind., by a broken wheel, and the coach was demolished after rolling down a thirty-foot embankment. Half a dozen of the occupants were seriously injured, among them several newspaper men..... The New Hampshire Constitutional convention adopted amendments providing that removals from office shall not be made for political reasons, and that public money shall not be appropriated for sectarian schools.

The government forces of Colombia, South America, have defeated the insurgents after several desperate battles..... Owing to the dullness of work four hundred employees of the government printing bureau in Washington have been discharged. Two-thirds of them were women..... The schooner Henry Elliott, of Thomaston, Me., went ashore near Shinnecock light, Long Island, in the recent severe gale, and the captain, his wife and nine-year-old child were swept overboard and drowned. Two sailors were drowned while attempting to escape from the ship Montrose, ashore near Monmouth Point. Numerous other disasters are recorded of the violence of the storm, which prevailed over the entire country. There are grave fears of a general famine in the Madras district, India ..... News from Mexico confirms the information of the capture of President Lerdo. Diaz refused to proclaim the presidency of Iglesias unless he was to be allowed to name four members of the cabinet, which being refused, he proclaimed himself provisional president. The two rivals will now contend against each other..... It is stated on good authority at Alexandria that the khedive of Egypt is dissatisfied with his American military officers, and has notified them that their contracts will not be renewed. ..... The Charter Oak insurance company of Hartford, Conn., purchased twenty-five buildings in the business portion of New York from Edward Matthews, paying the sum of $2,797,000 therefor..... B. R. & R. Knight & Co.'s bleaching and kier houses at Pontiac, R. I., were destroyed by fire. Loss from $150,000 to $200,000..... George H. Friend & Co.'s paper mills at Carrollton, Ohio, were burned, inflicting a loss of $80,000 or $90,000..... The trunk line managers agreed that there should be no discrimination in favor of Baltimore and Philadelphia against New York except on freights designed for local consumption ..... General Wm. F. Bartlett died at Pittsfield, Mass, after a lingering illness..... Dr. Edwin Eldridge, the philanthropic gentleman who gave the handsome park to Elmira, New York, died in that city of congestion of the lungs.... Eleven buildings, including the United States land office, were destroyed by fire at Fargo, Dakota Territory..... It is believed in Berlin that war in Eastern Europe is inevitable. It may be kept off until spring, but the best German authorities say it is sure to come..... West Virginia's official vote gives Tilden 56,565; Hayes, 41,996, and Cooper, 1,387.

Governor Hampton, of South Carolina, wrote a polite note to Governor Chamberlain, informing the latter that he (Hampton) had qualified as governor, and requested that the great seal of State be delivered. Governor Chamberlain politely replied that he did not recognize in Gov. H. any right to make such a demand, and he should not comply with the request. The correspondence was directed to D. H. Chamberlain, Esq., and to Wade Hampton, Esq. It is anticipated that the first clash or conflict between the two governors will probably originate with the county officials appointed by the respective governors. The bill to prevent and punish any person or persons for setting up a government in opposition to the legitimate government, passed to its third reading in the Republican House and was sent to the Senate. It sets forth that if any person or persons shall set up, or attempt to set up, or maintain or attempt to maintain a government for the State of South Carolina, within the limits of the said State, in opposition to the legitimate and lawful government thereof, he or they shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of not less than ten nor more than forty years, or pay a fine of not less than $10,000 nor more than $100,000, one or both, within the discretion of the court.

Four children of R. McInnes were burned to death in his house at Second Concession, Can. The father was terribly burned in the endeavor to rescue them..... The National paper company lost their warehouse at Holyoke, Mass., by fire. Loss, $38,000; insurance, $12,000. .....A frightful colliery explosion took place in the pit of the South Wales company near Newport. Seventeen bodies were recovered and many miners taken out seriously injured. .....The merchants of Savannah, Ga., are prospecting with good success for a line of steamships between that port and Liverpool. ..... Eight persons were killed and fifteen wounded by a railway collision in Belgium ..... The legislators of Denmark are at loggerheads with the king, and the situation looks serious.

Minister Washburne has presented President Grant's apologies to the Duke Decazes, minister of foreign affairs, for the arrest at Philadelphia of Capt. Aufrye, naval attache to the French legation at Washington, and delegate French commissioner to the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, at the instance of one of the Exhibition policemen..... Another destructive fire broke out in the district left uninjured from the recent conflagration in Little Rock, Ark., and considerable property was destroyed. As before, the water supply was limited..... The governor of Alabama has arranged with the national bank of the State of New York to pay the January interest on the new Alabama bonds issued in exchange for the old ones in order to adjust the debt..... In the inquest before the Brooklyn coroner, it transpired that when the theater was burned within which so many lives were lost, the fire extinguishing apparatus on the stage was covered by heavy scenery..... Gen. Miles has again defeated Sitting Bull, and two hundred lodges came in and surrendered.... The auction sale of John Taylor Johnston's art collection in New York realized $138,000 the first night. The highest price paid was $11,000 for Meissonier's "Soldiers at Cards." The collection was the finest in the country. .....Gen. Crook's annual report says that miners in the Black Hills did not violate the Sioux treaty until long after the Indians had ceased to regard it. He seems to think that the government has treated the Sioux nation with unparalleled liberality, which they have repaid by raids along the border of the reservations, limited only by the power of the endurance of their ponies..... The steamer Montana, running out of San Francisco to ports on the Pacific, was burned to the water's edge with her valuable cargo. The passengers and crew escaped.... Anarchy reigns in Lower California, and the new governor has levied on the people for $24,000 to pay his government.

What Will They Do?

According to a statement of the president of the New York Workingmen's Assembly there were 45,375 workingmen in that city out of employment. The workingmen themselves declare that there is no hope for work this winter. They do not see a chance to earn their bread in that city or anywhere else. The best is stated when it is said that those trades which feed the clothing business are pretty lively, but in all the skilled labor connected with building there is nothing doing. The mechanics are now so hard pressed that there are thousands of their families now on the verge of destitution, with the hard, idle winter before them. The situation is becoming desperate.

A young man in Bridgeport, Conn., pulled back so hard, when his companions hauled him up to the bar to drink, that one of his arms was broken. The truth of the story is vouched for by the Bridgeport newspapers.

The figures of the Massachusetts State census justify the theory that the foreign born population of that State is more prolific than the native. The average number of children of the native mothers is 3.52, while of the foreign born it is 4.91. The rule is probably general, in New England at least, if not in the country.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

Senate.

The resolution of Mr. Bayard (Dem.), of Delaware, directing the attorney-general to communicate to the Senate the total number of deputy marshals employed throughout the United States, in connection with the election of November 7 last, the number so employed in each State, and each voting precinct respectively, and the length of time so employed, was adopted.

Mr. Edmunds submitted an amendment to the bill providing that the supreme court of the United States count the electoral vote, making the measure applicable to the present contested contest, in case it be ratified by three-fourths of the States, etc., so as to provide that the court shall fix a day not later than February 10, 1877, for the count, and proceed with it from day to day until it is disposed of. Agreed to.

Numerous petitions of religious and temperance organizations throughout the country were presented by various senators praying Congress to take steps to prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors as a beverage in the District of Columbia and the Territories of the United States, all of which were referred.

The joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution so as to have the electoral vote counted by the supreme court was discussed at some length, leading members taking part in it. Mr. Bogy (Dem.), of Missouri, said that in the present contest if the court should decide in favor of Tilden it would be denounced, and if it should decide in favor of Hayes it would likewise be denounced. The counting of the vote was not a function which belonged to the judicial department of the government; it was a function which properly belonged to the legislative department. The vote was then taken and the joint resolution was rejected, yeas fourteen, nays thirty-nine, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Anthony, Blaine, Burnside, Conkling, Edmunds, Ferry, Frelinghuysen, Hamlin, Hitchcock, Key, Morrill, West, and Wright—fourteen.

NAYS—Messrs. Alcorn, Bayard, Bogy, Booth, Bruce, Cameron (Pa.), Chaffee, Clayton, Conover, Dawes, [illegible]nis, Eaton, Goldthwaite, Hamilton, Harvey, Ingalls, Jones (Fla.), Kernan, Logan, McCreery, Maxey, Morton, Norwood, Patterson, Price, Randolph, Sargent, Thurman, Wallace, Whyte, and Withers—thirty-one.

In discussing the political question, Mr. Sherman (Rep.), of Ohio, said the vote of Florida and Louisiana was in dispute. As to Oregon, he did not think that case would rise to the dignity of a dispute. He believed the Democratic candidate himself would scorn to hold the office of President in pursuance of such a fraud. As to South Carolina, he believed that it was conceded by all that the electoral vote was for Hayes and Wheeler.

Messrs. Randolph (Dem.), of New Jersey, and Withers (Dem.), of Virginia, denied that there was any such concession.

The Senate passed the House bill to pay the Presidential electoral messengers at the rate of twenty-five cents per mile.

Mr. Wright (Rep.), of Iowa, gave notice that he would call up the bill reported from the committee on civil service and retrenchment reducing the salary of the President of the United States from $50,000 to $25,000 per annum.

The pay of witnesses before committees was fixed at $3 per day and five cents per mile traveling fees.

Petitions in favor of legislation to prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic liquors as a beverage in the district of Columbia and Territories of the United States are presented daily.

Mr. Wright (Rep.), of Iowa, introduced a bill to establish a court for the trial of contested elections in the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States.

Mr. Edmunds (Rep.), of Vermont, called up the resolution submitted by him, referring the message of the House of Representatives on the subject of the Presidential election to a select committee of seven senators, to act with the House committee in preparing a measure best calculated to accomplish the lawful counting of the electoral votes, and the best disposition of all questions connected therewith; and it was unanimously agreed to without discussion.

Mr. Wright (Rep.), of Iowa, called up the bill reducing the salary of the President of the United States from $50,000 to $25,000 per annum, which passed both Houses of Congress at the last session and was vetoed by the President, but the question being shall the bill pass notwithstanding the objections of the President, it was rejected by a vote of twenty-five yeas to nineteen nays, not the necessary two-thirds voting in the affirmative. The vote was as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Alcorn, Bogy, Clayton, Cockrell, Conkling, Cragin, Davis, Dawes, Eaton, Ferry, Goldthwaite, Harvey, Hitchcock, Johnston, Kernan, Key, McCreery, Maxey, Morrill, Morton, Pratt, Saulsbury, Sherman, Thurman, Whyte, Wright—twenty-five.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Barnum, Bayard, Blaine, Booth, Boutwell, Burnside, Cameron (Pa.), Chaffee, Dorsey, Edmunds, Hamlin, Ingalls, Jones (Fla.), Mitchell, Norwood, Paddock, Windom, Withers—nineteen.

Mr. Ingalls (Rep.), of Kansas, submitted a concurrent resolution accepting the statues of Samuel Adams and John Winthrop, presented to the United States by Massachusetts, and returning the thanks of Congress to the State of Massachusetts. Agreed to.

House.

Mr. Blair (Rep.), of New Hampshire, introduced a constitutional amendment forbidding the manufacture and sale of distilled liquors as a beverage after the year 1900. Referred.

The Speaker laid before the House the resignation of Smith Ely, Jr., as representative from the State of New York.

The Speaker appointed, as the committee to inquire as to whether frauds have been practiced in the election in New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City and Philadelphia, Messrs. Cox (Dem.), of New York, Rice (Dem.), of Ohio, Waddell (Dem.), of North Carolina, McDougal (Rep.), of New York, and Wells (Rep.), of Mississippi.

The bill to utilize the products of gold and silver mines was discussed at some length, Mr. Bland (Dem.), of Missouri, closing the debate, and then the vote was taken, and the substitute to the bill was agreed to without a division. The bill thus amended was passed—yeas 167, nays fifty-three. It is as follows:

A bill authorizing the coining of a standard silver dollar, and restoring its legal tender character.

That there shall be, from time to time, coined at the mints of the United States silver dollars of the weight of 412½ grains of standard silver to the dollar, as provided for in the act of Jan. 18, 1837; and that said dollar shall be a legal tender for all debts, public and private, except where the payment of gold coin is required by law.

Mr. Knott (Dem.), of Kentucky, chairman of the judiciary committee, reported the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee of seven members be appointed by the Speaker of the House to ascertain and report what are the privileges, powers and duties of the House of Representatives in counting the vote for President and Vice-President of the United States, and that said committee have leave to report at any time. The resolution was adopted without division. A resolution was also adopted appointing a committee of seven members to act in conjunction with any similar committee that may be appointed by the Senate to prepare and report without delay such a measure, either legislative or constitutional, as may in their judgment be best calculated to accomplish the desired end. That said committee have leave to report at any time.

The bill making appropriations to meet the expenses of investigating committees was passed as reported from the committee on appropriations.

The House increased the Post-office appropriation bill so as to provide for fast mail service.

In the House the highest testimonials were paid to the memory of the late Speaker Kerr by many of the members.

A discussion occurred on a telegraphic communication from Mr. Morrison, chairman of the Louisiana investigating committee, calling the attention of the House to the refusal of President Orton to surrender all the telegraphic dispatches sent by the national Republican executive committee during the Presidential campaign. The communication was referred to the committee on the judiciary.

Mr. Knott (Dem.), of Kentucky, chairman of the judiciary committee, introduced a bill prescribing the method of counting the electoral votes for President and Vice-President. Referred to the select committee on the subject.

Mr. Hunter (Rep.), of Indiana, moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution instructing the judiciary committee to report on the amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the payment of war claims to disloyal persons. Carried—yeas, 150; nays, sixty-three.

The resolution to adjourn over the holidays was adopted—yeas, 121; nays, 92.

The Fortification Appropriation bill was passed. It appropriates $100,000 for the protection, preservation and repair of fortifications; $100,000 for the armament of sea coast fortifications, and $50,000 for torpedoes. Total, $250,000.

To Distinguish Cotton from Wool.

Ravel out the suspected cotton fiber from the wool and apply flame. The cotton will burn with a flash, the wool will curl up, carbonize, and emit a burnt, disagreeable smell. Even to the naked eye the cotton is noticeably different from the filaments of wool, and under the magnifier this difference comes out strongly. The cotton is a flattened, more or less twisted band, having a very striking resemblance to hair, which, in reality, it is; since in the condition of elongated cells, it lines the inner surface of the pod. The wool may be recognized at once by the zigzag transverse markings on its fibers. The surface of wool is covered with these furrowed and twisted fine cross lines, of which there are 2,000 to 4,000 in an inch. On this structure depends its felting property. Finally, a simple and very striking chemical test may be applied. The mixed goods are unraveled, a little of the cotton fiber put into one dish and the woolen in another, and a drop of strong nitric acid added. The cotton will be little or not at all affected; the wool, on the contrary, will be changed to a bright yellow. The color is due to the development of a picrate.

Looking at the Wreck.

"Gath" writes to the *Graphic* of the Brooklyn fire: All that I could see, as I looked in the hollow theater from the exposed stage rear on the street, was a rectangle of brick walls, on three sides unbroken, at my end fallen in. The opposite gable, a high, clean piece of brick work, retained the stain or print of the stairs which led to the fatal gallery, far up the lofty interior. Those who fell from the gallery itself fell probably fifty feet into the cellar, on the bed of cinders and burning coals already prepared there. They fell into the depth of the block, one hundred feet from any street but the side alley, where nobody walked. They fell like a man in the interior of a prison, into an *oubliette* or den of oblivion. From burning zenith to burning hell. From shrieking to chimney tops and frightened birds and nothing more but the intimidated stars, they fell to a roasting pit amongst the rats of the sewers and cellars, and not a sound they made for mercy or death, relief or identification, reached the outer world. There the flames were roaring, the engines whistling, bells and valves and speaking trumpets were making midnight din. The nearest spectator—the only cognizant part of nature that peeped in—was the sky, which showed its pale face in place of the fallen roof. Piled together in suffocation, the dying and dead nestled down together, growing black and consuming to stumps of human forms. There, within a hundred feet, was a lightning press, and never suspected that there was such news to tell. All the New York papers the next day announced that the audience got off safely, and still three hundred buried forms were in that cellar, charred and still. It was in the focus of Brooklyn, yet people were saying hours afterward that nobody was hurt. The smoke that blew above the ruin looked innocent to all, as if it merely bore away the odors and ashes of old properties and scenes, benches and fiddles, but it was pregnant with the bloom of youth, the strength of human hair, the lime of strong arms, the reminder of recently bounding hearts. They died in the midst of the city, like the pioneers of Montana's meadows, murdered on the desert. They died lonely, as the heroes of an anabasis, yet beside everybody.

I looked into those hollow walls where a few men were digging like scattered pigmies on the charcoal littered floor. There were the foundation walls of the rear main entrance, the three brick arches through which the audience walked, and under my eye the stones that supported the stage. It was clean as a ruined church standing out in an old field. They were no floors, and little or no *debris* remained. If the bushes had grown up while I gazed upon the hollow waste all would have seemed natural enough.

Strange Freaks of the Insane.

A lady was one evening sitting in her drawing-room alone, when the only other inmate of the house, a brother, who for a time had been betraying a tendency to unsoundness of mind, entered with a carving knife in his hand, and, shutting the door, came up to her and said: "Margaret, an odd idea has occurred to me. I wish to paint the head of John the Baptist, and I think yours might make an excellent study for it. So, if you please, I will cut off your head." The lady looked at her brother's eye, and seeing in it no token of jest, concluded that he meant to do what he said. There was an open window and a balcony by her side, with a street in front; but a moment satisfied her that safety did not lie in that way. So, putting on a smiling countenance, she said: "That is a strange idea, George; but would it not be a pity to spoil this pretty new lace tippet I have got? I'll just step to my room to put it off and be with you again in half a minute." Without giving him time to consider, she stepped lightly across the floor and passed out. In another moment she was alone in her own room, whence she easily gave the alarm, and the madman was secured.

The story of the gentleman commanded by sage insane persons to jump from the top of a tower in their asylum, and who escaped by telling them he would rather jump from the bottom to the top, and run down stairs as if to execute his intention, is well known; but the following anecdote of a similar situation will be news to most readers. A gentleman accompanying a party to inspect an asylum, chanced to be left behind in the kitchen with a number of the inmates who acted as cooks and scullions to the establishment. There was a huge caldron of boiling water on the fire, into which the madmen declared they must put him in order to boil him for broth. They would fain have assisted him into the large pot; and, as they were laying hold of him, he reflected that in a personal struggle he would have no chance with them—all he could do was to gain time. So he said "Very well, gentlemen, I am sure I should make good broth, if you do not spoil it by boiling my clothes with it." "Take off your clothes," they cried out; and he began to take off his clothes very slowly, crying out loudly the while: "Now, gentlemen, my coat is off—I will soon be stripped. There goes my waistcoat—I shall soon be ready;" and so on, till nothing remained but his shirt. Fortunately, the keeper, attracted by his loud speaking, hurried in just in time to save him.

Instructing the Postmaster.

There were vigorous inquiries at the Detroit post-office for the chief clerk, and when the captain's face appeared at the window the inquirer asked:

"Has a cross-eyed woman been here asking for letters addressed to me?"

The captain hadn't been here.

"Well, she'll be here this forenoon. She's my wife, and she's a leetle weak in the head. She's got the notion that I get love letters from a woman in Canada, and she'll be here to ask for my mail."

"Well?"

"Well, I don't get any such letters, of course, but you mustn't give her my mail. She might get one with a draft in, and not know its value. Just say to her that you never knew of my receiving a letter here, and that you had repeatedly heard me say that I had the best wife in town."

"But I don't know you."

"Never mind that. In dealing with an insane woman it's best to be soft and slick and smooth. Just shake hands with her, praise her small feet, and tell her she ought to be proud of such a husband as I am."

The Silver Bill.

The Silver bill was passed by the United States House, after two hours' discussion. The bill passed is the substitute offered by Mr. Bland, and is embraced in nine printed lines. It provides for the coining of silver dollars at mints of the United States of the weight of 412½ grains standard silver, and declares that said dollar shall be a legal tender for all debts public and private, except where payments of gold coin is required by law. The vote on the passage of the bill was 167 to 53. Of those voting in the negative eighteen were Democrats. The negative vote was made up from the following States: New York, fourteen; Massachusetts, seven; Pennsylvania, six; Maine, five; New Hampshire and Louisiana, each three; Michigan, Ohio and Rhode Island, each two; and Alabama, Connecticut, Iowa, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Maryland, New Jersey and Vermont, each one.

Getting the Ladies Interested.

A rather funny device was recently introduced into a neighboring church social which promises to become very popular. A prize of ten dollars was offered to the gentleman bringing the largest number of young ladies, and their enthusiasm was so great that even mothers-in-law and old maids were delighted and astonished by polite invitations to attend the evening's entertainment. It is hinted, however, that the young man winning the prize considered the money more than earned.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE VOTE.—The returns in the office of the secretary of State give Pacheco, Republican, for Congress in the fourth district of California, a majority of one vote.

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY.

An Unrivaled Illustrated Magazine.

When SCRIBNER issued its famous Midsummer Holiday Number in July, a friendly critic said of it: "We are not sure but that SCRIBNER has touched high water mark. We do not see what worlds are left to it to conquer." But the publishers do not consider that they have reached the ultima thule of excellence—they believe "there are other worlds to conquer, and they propose to conquer them."

The prospectus for the new volume gives the titles of more than fifty papers, mostly illustrated, by writers of the highest merit. Under the head of

"FOREIGN TRAVEL,"

we have "A Winter on the Nile," by Gen. McClellan; "Sauntering About Constantinople," by CHARLES DUDLEY WARNER; "Out of My Window at Moscow," by EUGENE SCHUYLER; "An American in Turkistan," etc. Three serial stories are announced:

"NICHOLAS MINTURN,"

BY DR. HOLLAND, THE EDITOR,

whose story of "Sevenoaks" gave the highest satisfaction to the readers of the Monthly.

The scene of this latest novel is laid on the banks of the Hudson. The hero is a young man who has been always "tied to a woman's apron strings," but who, by the death of his mother, is left alone in the world—to drift on the current of life—with a fortune, but without a purpose.

Another serial, "His Inheritance," by Miss TRAFTON, will begin on the completion of "That Lass o' Lowrie's," by Mrs. HODGSON BURNETT. Mrs. Burnett's story, begun in August, has a pathos and dramatic power which have been a surprise to the public.

There is to be a series of original and exquisitely illustrated papers of "Popular Science," by Mrs. HERRICK, each paper complete in itself.

There are to be, from various pens, papers on

HOME LIFE AND TRAVEL."

Also, practical suggestions as to town and country life, village improvements, etc., by well known specialists.

Mr. HAYNE's articles on various industries of Great Britain, include the history of "Some Experiments in Co-operation," "A Scottish Loaf Factory" in the November number, and "Toad Lane, Rochdale," in December. Other papers are, "The British Workingman's Home," "A Nation of Shopkeepers," "Ha'penny a Week for the Child," etc.

A richly illustrated series will be given on "American Sports by Flood and Field," by various writers, and each on a different theme. The subject of

"HOUSEHOLD and HOME DECORATION"

will have a prominent place, whilst the latest productions of American humorists will appear from month to month. The list of shorter stories, biographical and other sketches, etc., is a long one.

The editorial department will continue to employ the ablest pens both at home and abroad. There will be a series of letters on literary matters, from London, by Mr. WELFORD.

The pages of the magazine will be open, as heretofore, so far as limited space will permit, to the discussion of all themes affecting the social and religious life of the world, and specially to the freshest thought of the Christian thinkers and scholars of this country.

The publishers say they mean to make the magazine sweeter and purer, higher and nobler, more genial and generous in all its utterances and influences, and a more welcome visitor than ever before in homes of refinement and culture.

FIFTEEN MONTHS for $4.

SCRIBNER for December, now ready, and which contains the opening chapters of "Nicholas Minturn," will be read with eager curiosity and interest. Perhaps no more readable number of this magazine has yet been issued. The three numbers of SCRIBNER for August, September and October, containing the opening chapters of "That Lass o' Lowrie's," will be given to every new subscriber (who requests it), and whose subscription begins with the present volume, i. e., with the November number.

Subscription price, $4 a year—35 cents a number. Special terms on bound volumes. Subscribe with the nearest bookseller, or send a check or P. O. money order to

SCRIBNER & CO., 743 Broadway, N. Y.

The New York Clerk.

Young men in the country imagine that if they could only manage to get a clerkship in New York, or some other large city, their fortunes would be made. The New York clerk does not have so feathery a bed to lie in as many imagine. A correspondent writing on the subject says. Take, for instance, the dry goods clerks on Broadway. Some of the establishments like Stewart's, Lord & Taylor's, Jaffray's, etc., have as many as two hundred clerks in their employ. They are expected to dress well, to keep up with the fashions, so as to be in keeping with the general style of things about them. They must be at business promptly at eight in the morning, a strict account being kept of any failure to do so, which is reported by the head of the department to the general manager. All the day long they are kept on their feet, under watchful eyes, and with a multitude of details to attend to; and at noon they must hurry out for a hasty lunch and be back as soon as possible, flying the day through until seven