FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

Plowing and Manuring.

In reply to a question, at the Connecticut farmers' meeting, Charles Hubbard said that two of his fields were treated with manure, one plowed in to a depth of six inches, and the other having the manure spread on the surface. Both were planted to corn, and that where the manure was spread (although the amount was at least two-thirds more on the plowed-in piece) yielded one-fourth more corn. He knew that plowed-in manure is wasted. He did not believe that raw peat or muck was of the slightest value to land. If composted he believed muck to be valuable, but then mainly as a vehicle for liquid or gaseous elements.

Mr. White, of Putnam, said his experience had been that flat plowing—turning the ground upside down—was not good. Manure should be plowed in with the ridges left on edge to allow air to get at the manure.

Dr. Startevant, of Framingham, Mass., said he had found good results by flat plowing-in of manures, but he believed the surface application to be better. He gave facts drawn from experiments he had made to the effect that crops had not answered to the fertilizer. His idea was that experiments alone were not sufficient. Yet, he thought that vastly more was dependent on the character of seed used than on the nature of the manure or the manner of its application. He gave blackboard illustrations and showed that the chemical elements of manure are of such different natures that for some of them only continued applications, sufficient to saturate the land, are of real value. He did not believe there was a great loss of fertilizing gases by exposure to the atmosphere; indeed, he thought five cents' worth of ammonia would replace all that would be lost by the spread of manure on an acre and exposure during an entire winter. He was satisfied that very little waste was experienced by evaporation and that surface manuring was therefore preferable.

Mr. Sedgwick, of Cornwall, related some facts from experience and observation to the effect that surface manuring was far preferable to plowing-in.

Mr. Norris, of Danbury, sustained the positions of the last speaker. His practice of surface manuring had proved so profitable that all his neighbors had adopted it.

Mr. Carey, of Herkimer county, N. Y., was also in favor of surface manuring. His practice was in every way in support of this plan.

The discussion was continued at considerable length by a number of speakers, the general drift, in details of experiments and practice, being in favor of surface dressing rather than plowing-in.

Farmer's Club Questions and Answers.

What are the comparative advantages of fermented and unfermented manures?

This depends on the use for which they are designed. If for garden beds, loose, light soils, a top dressing for meadows, or if needed to kill any noxious seeds incorporated with the heap, it should be fermented; if intended for hoed crops in clay or loamy soils it should be in a fresh condition.

What conditions are essential to quick decomposition in manure?

Air, moisture and a temperature above sixty-five degrees are necessary for rapid decomposition.

What remedy is there for weevil in small grain?

After the grain is thrashed and put in garner, one farmer says to sprinkle common salt evenly all over it, in proportions of about one bushel of salt to one hundred bushels of wheat.

What is ribbon grass?

Ribbon grass is a beautifully striped grass, sometimes used for garden borders. It has been highly recommended for swamps, where it is claimed that by transplanting it supersedes all other grasses and affords a fine quality of hay.

Is whey a profitable feed for hogs?

When fed to swine whey should always be given in connection with other food, as alone it is insufficient to give profitable results and incapable of producing wholesome meat. The common notion is that it is more safely fed when partially soured. Its principal solid constituent is milk sugar, which is valuable as food, but unfit for an exclusive diet, as it fails to contain all the elements necessary to a healthy growth. Sweet whey is good for young calves.

To Make Mince Pie.

To make mince pie, hash five pounds of beef with three pounds of apples, one-third pound chopped raisins; add three tablespoonfuls spice, and cook three minutes; add three tablespoonfuls cinnamon, and stir three times; add mace, and pepper, and caraway, and cloves, and coriander, and dried gooseberries, and salt, and citron, and keep tasting till you are sure it is right; then set the pan on a chair and add one quart of boiled cider, one cupful vinegar, two dozen prunes without the stones, a wineglassful of rose water, and four pulverized nutmegs; next add two cupfuls butter and one cupful salt; cook fifteen minutes, taste and put the spoon back; if you have anything else in the house you would like to put in you can do so, only exercise discretion in all your movements.

A New Food for Horses.

The *California Farmer* thus describes a new kind of mash for horses now coming into use: It is composed of two quarts of oats, one of bran, and half a pint of flaxseed. The oats are first placed in the stable bucket, over which is placed the linseed; add boiling water, then the bran, covering the mixture with an old rug and allowing it thus to rest for five hours; then stir the mass up well. The bran absorbs while retaining the vapor, and the linseed binds the oats and bran together; a greater quantity of flaxseed would make the preparation too oily and less relished. One feed per day of this mash is sufficient; it is easily digested, and is especially adapted to young animals, adding to their volume and giving substance to the frame.

Butter Floating on Milk.

It is not uncommon for small particles of butter to be formed during the milking of cows that give more than usually rich milk. The butter globules become broken either in the udder or in the pail, the thin pelliole which covers them being ruptured, and the minute particles of butter cohere and form small masses visible to the eye. This is not a defect; on the contrary, it indicates that the cow is an excellent butter maker. It sometimes occurs with ordinary cows, when the milk from neglect has not been drawn at the usual time. The pressure in the udder may then cause the globules to become broken and the fresh butter to gather.

Keeping Seeds.

What is the best way of keeping seeds? A good way is to wrap them in substantial paper, in small parcels, then inclose in strong bags and hang up on rafters in the attic, toothsome or some similar place.

An Astonished Whale.

The Philadelphia *Press* tells a tough story as to how a Massachusetts fishing schooner was carried off by a monster of the deep. According to the run of the yarn told by the *Press*, the vessel was riding at anchor, when suddenly she began to move through the water at the lively rate of ten to fifteen miles an hour. It was then discovered by the astonished crew that a whale had twisted the anchor cable around his tail, and was making off with the schooner. His whaleship, perhaps, equally astonished, lifted himself out of the water several times during the free tow, and finally made off with about one hundred and forty fathoms of the cable, leaving the vessel free to return to port.

Truth Pays.

The other day when a resident of Detroit hired a boy to carry in a ton of coal he forgot to make a bargain, and when the job had been completed he inquired:

"Well, bub, how much do I owe you?"

"Oh, I dunno," replied the boy.

"Can't you name a sum?"

"I could, I suppose," said the lad, "but mother said if I left it to you I'd get twice what the job was worth!"

He received enough to convince him that truth always pays.

The Old Deacon's Lament.

Yes, I've been deacon of our church
Nigh on to fifty year,
Walked in the way of dooty, too,
And kep' my conscience clear.
I've watched the children growin' up,
Seen brown locks turnin' gray,
But never saw seech doin's yet
As those I've seen to-day.

This church was built by goldly men
To glorify the Lord,
In seventeen hundred eighty-eight:
Folks couldn't then afford
Carpets and cushings and sech like—
The seats were jest plain wood,
Too narrer for the sleepy ones,
In prayer we allus stood.

And when the hymns were given out,
I tell you it was grand
To hear our leader start the tunes,
With tunin' fork in hand!
Then good old "China," "Mear," and all,
Were heard on Sabbath days,
And men and women, boys and girls,
J'ined in the song of praise.

But that old pulpit was my pride—
Jest eight feet from the ground
They'd reared it up—on either side
A narrer stairs went down;
The front and ends were fitly carved
With Scripter stories all—
Findin' of Moses, Jacob's dream,
And sinful Adam's fall.

Jest room inside to put a cheer,
The Bible on the ledge
(I'll own I did get narvous when
He shoved it near the edge).
There, week by week, the parson stood,
The Scripter to expound;
There, man and boy, I've set below,
And not a fault was found.

Of course I've seen great changes made,
And fought against 'em, too;
But first a choir was interlodged,
Then cushings in each pew;
Next, boughten carpet for the floor;
And then, that very year,
We got our new melodeon,
And the big shandyleer.

Well, well! I tried to keep things straight—
I went to evry meetin',
And voted "No" to all they said,
But found my influ'nce fleetin',
At last the worst misfortin fell—
I *must* blame Deacon Brown:
He helped the young folks when they said
The pulpit should come down.

They laughed at all those pious scenes
I'd found so edifyin';
Said: "When the parson rose to preach,
He looked a most like flyin';"
Said that "Elijah's chariot
Jest half way up had tarried;"
And Deacon Brown set by and laughed,
And so the p'int was carried.

This was last week. The carpenters
Have nearly made an end—
Excuse my feelin's. Seems to me
As of I'd lost a friend.

"It made their necks ache, lookin' up,"
Was what the folks did say:
More lookin' up would help us all
In this degin'rate day.

The church won't never seem the same
(I'm half afeard) to me,
Under the preachin' of the truth
I've been so used to be.

And now—to see our parson stand
Like any common man,
With jest a railin' round his desk—
I don't believe I can!

—*Harper's Magazine.*

THE DEPARTED YEAR.

A Review of what has been Accomplished in the Past Twelve Months.

Looking over the world's work for the year 1876, one sees that there has been general, though not marked, progress in art, science, philosophy, civilization and human liberty. Nowhere do we see any serious reaction or any arrested development of the ideas which we associate with the best interests of humanity. In France, for example, the right of self-government has repeatedly asserted itself with a decreasing opposition to the republic. As the year has waxed and waned, the fundamental principles which underlie a popular government have been strengthened. In Italy, a liberal monarchy has been solidified. The reactionary spirit which had been manifested in Spain has not materially delayed political progress. And even this slight drawback is amply counterbalanced by the happy results which a return of peace has brought to that long distracted country. Carlism has at last beaten itself into pieces, and a pretense which was utterly hostile to the spirit of the age has come to an end.

Peace has generally prevailed throughout the world, in spite of rumors and divers threatenings of war. The reopening of the Eastern question has excited the liveliest apprehensions of Christendom—apprehensions which are not yet quieted. Whatever may be the issue of this new agitation, it seems morally certain that the Christian subjects of Turkey will secure additional freedom from oppression, and that the general cause of human liberty will be strengthened. Turkey has itself witnessed the violent death of one sultan, the abdication of a second and the nominal surrender of arbitrary powers by a third. During the year, Islam in Europe has received its severest blow since the century begun. The fighting on the Servian frontier has not disturbed the general peace of the world. Mexico and the Central American republics have been agitated by their customary revolutions, and the first named of these countries is still torn by contending factions. The war in Cuba has throbbed on, but with languor on both sides; and no grave military events have broken the monotonous reports of disorder in the island. A few great casualties have occurred in various parts of the world, the most serious being an inundation in Italy, by which many thousands of people lost their lives. Distress by famine has also been reported in the East. Hungary, Southern France and various parts of Europe have been devastated by floods, to the great loss of life and property. No very large disaster at sea has been reported, save except the crushing of the Arctic whaling fleet, which was accompanied by almost no loss of life.

In the history of our own country the most notable events have been our entrance upon a second century of national existence, and the holding of the regular quadrennial Presidential election. The great anniversary was fitly and enthusiastically celebrated. The Exposition at Philadelphia is conceded to have been highly successful, and one of the best of its kind. The year will long be memorable for this display, as well as for the innumerable contributions to the national art, literature, science, and industry of which it was the occasion. The Presidential election of 1876 will become memorable, from the extraordinary crisis which it brought upon the people. In future years, this period will be recalled as one during which the powers of a popular government endured a severe strain, and in which the American people awaited a solution with calmness, patience and order. Possibly it will be hereafter thought a remarkable coincidence that the republic should, at the beginning of a new century of life, be compelled to face a struggle which should be a new test of the people's capacity for self-government.

Our friendly relations with foreign governments have been unimpaired. The sudden interruption of exchanges with Great Britain under the extradition treaty was an unpleasant surprise. But the manly course of our own government, and the frank concessions of that of Great Britain, have restored that cordial understanding which has so long been a natural bond between the two nations. It is certainly worthy of remark that this highly important diplomatic affair was begun and ended within the year.

The return of Tweed, by consent of the Spanish government, was another event of some significance. Among the painful occurrences which have disturbed our own people, the arraignment and trial of a cabinet minister for corrupt practices stands first. The final exposures of the great whisky conspiracy and the trial of one of the President's confidential secretaries furnished another unhappy public scandal. Of the casualties which have passed into the record of the year, the burning of the Brooklyn Theater, by which nearly three hundred people lost their lives, is most mournfully memorable, and the railroad slaughter at Ashtabula comes in to cast a shadow over the last days of 1876. In the necrology of 1876, not many names of famous Americans will be found. Politics lost a man of ability by the death of Beverdy Johnson. Among business men, none more active and prominent than A. T. Stewart has died during the year. The stage has been deprived of a famous actress in Charlotte Cushman; and of the men of affairs who have passed away during the year, the name of Dr. Samuel G. Howe may be mentioned as one most historic and most pleasantly associated with the history of human enterprise.

No momentous discoveries, no highly promising inventions, have been made during the year. Our increasing knowledge of the globe upon which we live, as well as of the mysterious processes of nature, has fairly kept pace with the developments of past years. It is a brief period at best. Now that it is gone, and its opportunities, errors, omissions and deeds, good and bad, have forever eluded us, we can only turn our faces cheerfully to the new year. This we welcome with an intelligence and virtuous resolution born of experience. It is true that 1876 has been a year of depression and trial. It has laid heavy burdens on the energies of nearly every people beneath the sun. But we may assure ourselves that better times are coming, and that these trials will work out for us a nobler future, a more enduring and higher prosperity.

The Centennial Surplus.

In the United States circuit court at Philadelphia, in the matter of the Centennial board of finance against Joseph Patterson and Henry Lewis, of Philadelphia; John Gill and the State National bank of Camden, New Jersey, and George Eyster, United States treasurer at Philadelphia, praying the court to direct the defendants to interplead in order that it may be judicially determined whether the board of finance shall return to the government the sum of $1,500,000, which was appropriated to the Exhibition, before distributing the balance between the holders of the Centenial stock, or whether the latter are entitled to a pro rata distribution independently of the government's interest, Messrs. Patterson, Lewis, and Gill and the State bank of Camden filed the following answer:

First—We admit the averments contained in the first, second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh paragraphs of the complainant's bill, and believe that the various acts of Congress therein referred to are correctly set forth.

Second—We are advised and believe that, under the true construction of the act of Feb. 16, 1876, the funds in the hands of the complainants for distribution should be first applied in payment of the capital stock, and that any surplus thereafter, or in other words, the profits, if any, resulting from the Centennial Exhibition in said bill of complaint mentioned, should then be paid to the United States to the extent of $1,500,000, and the balance of the profits, if any, be divided, pro rata, among the stockholders. But as no profits have resulted from said Centennial Exhibition, and as the balance in the hands of the complainants is wholly inadequate even to repay the amount of stock subscribed, we aver that the United States is not entitled to participate at all in the distribution of the said fund, but that the same should and ought to be divided among the stockholders pro rata in satisfaction and discharge of the capital stock in accordance with the tenth section of the act of June 1, 1872, and we have demanded, and do demand, that the complainants should so distribute the said fund, and we pray that the court will so order a decree.

The Temperance Movement.

At a meeting recently held in New York, Dr. Ormiston called attention to the great importance of the temperance movement, the terrible evil of intoxication, and the necessity that the churches should take a chief part in the contest against that evil. He spoke of the difficulty of reclaiming the drunkard—though work to that end should not be given up, as each rescued man was a grand trophy—and urged that the beginnings of intemperance should be resisted everywhere and always—at the social board as well as in the drinking saloon, in the party which encouraged it as in the darker shadows which encompassed its worse forms. The magnitude of the evil, in its financial, social, moral and spiritual results, was incalculable.

In the United States 330,000,000 of gallons of liquors, costing $730,000,000, were consumed annually—$20 to each man, woman and child. Four-fifths of the inmates of the almshouses were there in consequence of intemperance. Vagrancy and beggary had their main source there, and eighty to ninety per cent. of all criminals connected their course of crime with intemperance. Dr. Ormiston gave fully statistics sustaining these views, and spoke at length of the evils arising to the individual drunkard, of the influence of drinking against religion both at home and abroad, and of the fact that moderate drinking was only the introduction to excess. He also dwelt upon the duty of all parents, for the sake of their children, to make earnest efforts that they be not entangled in this crime.

A Sure Cure for "Humps."

A dashing woman, with an enormous bustle, came teetering into an incoming Chicago train, the other morning, and settled herself in a seat opposite an old Granger, who was coming up to see the city.

"My darter Jane was once took with one of them 'ere humps," remarked the old man, as he turned his pitying gaze from the woman to a fellow passenger.

"She was?" inquired the passenger.

"Yes," was the reply, "but yer kin jest bet I cured her on it mighty quick."

"What did you do?" inquired the amused passenger.

"I sot her down in a tub of hot water till the derned thing wilted," declared the old man, "and it never come on agin!"

The dashing woman and other passengers who had overheard the conversation liked to have "wilted" without the hot water.

The Electoral Votes.

The president of the Senate has adopted a new form of receipt for the electoral votes as delivered by the messengers of the several States. The following is the form of receipt now given:

VICE-PRESIDENT'S CHAMBER,
SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
WASHINGTON, D. C., ——, 1876.

Received of ——, claiming to be a messenger to deliver the same, a sealed package, purporting to contain a certificate of the vote given for President and Vice-President of the United States by the electors of the State of ——, alleged to have been elected Nov. 7, 1876.

T. W. FERRY,
President pro tempore United States Senate.

It will be seen that this receipt is so drawn as not to commit the president of the Senate in any way. It, of course, was drawn to meet the case of the disputed States, but it is used for all. Certificates from nearly all the States, except the three disputed States and the States on the Pacific coast, have been received by mail.

Sacred Animals.

An English officer lately put up at the Dak bungalow, near the sacred lake of Posh, Rajpootana, India, which swarms with alligators who are fed and worshiped by the natives. About midnight the sentry raised an alarm because one of the dangerous reptiles had crept up to the bungalow. Puzzled by the noise the alligator crept into a bedroom, and the officer killed it with his pistols. Next morning the population was furious, and the Englishman narrowly escaped with his life. When, many years ago, the officers shot sacred peacocks in sport, and got killed in return, Sir Charles Napier issued the laconic order: "If officers will shoot peacocks, Belooches will shoot officers."

NOT THE ONES.—It is now well understood that a number of bodies from the Brooklyn disaster were buried by friends in the belief that they were relatives, when they were, in reality, not the remains of those they were supposed be be.

THE ASHTABULA DISASTER.

The Sad Story of the Wrecked Train, with its Terrible Loss of Life.

Of the 160 passengers whom the conductor reports as having been on board the train destroyed by the Ashtabula (Ohio) disaster, but fifty-nine can be accounted for. The disaster was dramatically complete; no element of horror was wanting. First, the crash of the bridge, the agonizing moments of suspense as the seven laden cars plunged down to the icy bed of the river; then came the fire to destroy all who had been left alive by the crash; the water gurgled up from beneath the ice and offered another form of death, and finally the biting blast, filled with snow, froze and benumbed those who had escaped water and fire. It was an ideal tragedy. The scene of the accident was the valley of the creek which, flowing down past the eastern margin of Ashtabula village, passes under the railway three or four hundred yards east of the station. Here for many years after the Lake Shore road was built there was a long wooden trestle work, but when the road was improved, about ten years ago, this was superseded with an iron Howe truss, built at the Cleveland shops, and resting at either end upon high stone piers, flanked by heavy earthen embankments. The iron structure was a single span of 159 feet, crossed by a double track, seventy feet above the water, which at that point is from three to six feet deep, and covered with eight inches of ice. The descent to the valley on either side is precipitous, and as the hills and slopes are piled with heavy drifts of snow there was no little difficulty in reaching the wreck after the disaster became known.

The bridge was intended to be as strong as iron and masonry could make it, and it required a sight of the wreck to convince the chief engineer of the road that the bridge had fallen under the weight of a single train. The disaster occurred shortly before eight o'clock. It was the wildest winter night of the year. Three hours behind its time, the Pacific express, which had left New York the evening before, struggled along through the drifts and the blinding storm. The eleven cars were a heavy burden to the two engines, and when the leading locomotive broke through the drifts beyond the ravine and rolled on across the bridge, the train was moving at less than ten miles an hour. The head lamp threw but a short and dim flash of light in front, so thick was the air with the driving snow. The train crept across the bridge. The leading engine had reached the solid ground beyond, and its driver had just given it steam, when something in the undergearing of the bridge snapped. For an instant there was a confused crackling of beams and girders, ending with a tremendous crash as the whole train, except the leading engine, broke through the framework and fell in a heap of crushed and splintered ruins at the bottom. Notwithstanding the wind and storm, the crash was heard by people indoors half a mile away. For a moment there was silence, a stunned sensation among the survivors, who, in all stages of mutilation, lay piled among the dying and dead. The few who remained unhurt hastened to escape from the shattered cars. They crawled out of windows into freezing water waist deep; men, women and children with limbs bruised and broken, pinched between timbers, and transfixed by jagged splinters, begged with their last breath for aid that no human power could give.

Five minutes after the train fell, the fire broke out in the cars piled against the broken end of the wreck. A moment later, flames broke from the smoking car and first coach, piled across each other near the middle of the stream. In less than ten minutes after the catastrophe every car in the wreck was on fire, and the flames, fed by the dry, varnished woodwork and fanned by the icy gale, consumed the ruins as though they had been tinder. Men who in the bewilderment of the shock sprang out and reached the ice, went back after wives and children and found them suffocating and roasting in the flames. The neighboring residents, startled by the crash, were lighted to the scene by the conflagration, which made even their prompt assistance too late. By midnight the destruction was complete. The storm had subsided; but the wind still blew fiercely and the cold became even more intense. When morning came all that remained of the Pacific express was a shapeless mass of car wheels, axles, brake irons, truck frames and twisted rails, lying in a black pool at the bottom of the gorge. The wood had burned completely away and the ruins were covered with white ashes. On the crest of the western embankment, half imbedded in the snow, stood the rear end of the locomotive. As the bridge fell its driver had given it a quick head of steam, which tore the drawhead from its tender and the liberated engine shot forward and buried itself in the snow. The other locomotive, drawn backward by the falling train, tumbled over the pier, and fell, bottom upward, over the express car next behind. The engineer, Folsom, escaped with a broken leg, how he cannot tell, nor any one else imagine.

It was at first feared that not more than a dozen bodies would be recovered sufficiently preserved to be removed. As the *debris* was cleared away, down to the surface of the water, however, a number were found. Thirty-four of them were taken out, but only a few of these were in a condition to be identified, except by means of buttons, jewelry, or other trinkets, known only to their friends.

The Captured Spanish Steamer.

The story has been told of the capture of the Spanish steamer Moctezuma by Cubans, but not in detail. It was as follows: A party of eleven Cubans left St. Domingo for Santiago de Cuba on the steamer. Their arms consisted of revolvers and swords, the latter concealed in trunks, while some had bowie knives. Prado, chief of the expedition, disposed the men in position, when dinner was being served, at half-past five. Three of the party, led by Prado, summoned the officers of the steamer to surrender. One of the party says:

The signal of each man to his post was given, and Prado, with myself, each with a revolver in his hand, entered the cabin, while Morey guarded the entrance to the door. Prado told the assembled officers that he demanded the surrender of the vessel. They, seeing such a small attacking party, commenced to resist. Several shots were then fired by us to intimidate the Spaniards, but with no intent to kill. The resistance became more determined, and Prado having been wounded, it was found necessary to take life to be successful in our mission. Firing in earnest then took place. The first to fall was Captain Cocho, with two shots in his head. Then came the steward who had wounded Prado, who received a bullet in his heart; a Catalonian passenger and a sailor who resisted were also killed. Among the wounded were a fireman, who received a shot in the arm; the storekeeper and a Cuban passenger, who was accidentally wounded. These were the total casualties, and we were masters of the Moctezuma and her officers and crew, numbering some seventy souls. There were also a number of passengers, among them being a Spanish official connected with the star department of the island of Porto Rico. We fastened the hands of some of our prisoners for a short time, while we held a council of war. Soon afterward we released them. Meanwhile the working of the ship was conducted as before. On the following day the passengers and part of her crew were landed near Port au Paix on the northern coast of Hayti. Returning, however, to the steamer, she continued on her course, subsequently sending Gutierrez and myself ashore in a boat with messages for the republic of Cuba and the agents of said republic.

The Cespedes, the name the steamer is now known by, is no pirate, for she carries letters of marque. She is commanded by men ready and willing to sacrifice their lives for Cuban independence. I cannot conclude without expressing the warmest thanks to Peru for the noble sons she has given us to help us in our struggle for liberty.

POPULATION.—The population, according to the last census (1870), of the three States named below, was as follows: South Carolina, white, 289,667; colored, 415,814. Louisiana, white, 362,065; colored, 364,210. Florida, white, 96,057; colored, 91,689.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

Items of Interest from Home and Abroad.

Many of the leading business men of New York city have addressed a petition to Congress praying for an early settlement of the Presidential question without regard to party considerations, as essential to the prosperity of the commercial interests of the country.....A new counterfeit $1,000 greenback is in circulation.....Buffalo's board of trade recommended a reduction of canal tolls.....Trouble is apprehended in India, as the hill tribe of Afreedees has become more insolent, and an expedition against them is talked of.....Major-Gen. John F. Rathbun, secretary and treasurer of the Hannisville distilling company and an officer in the National Guard of Pennsylvania, committed suicide at his office in Philadelphia. The only cause assigned is that he was under personal financial embarrassment.....President Grant has addressed a message to Congress announcing that Great Britain had acquiesced in restoring the treaty of 1842 relating to extradition, until a new agreement on the subject could be had.....By the explosion of a lamp in Collierville, Tenn., six stores were burned. Loss, $30,000.....Mr. Otis D. Swan, a prominent churchman of New York city, secretary of the Union League club and of a savings bank, and director of several charitable institutions, besides being a trustee for various private parties, is a defaulter to the amount of $300,000.

The amount of silver disbursements from the United States treasury aggregate $25,511,509.38, of which $15,336,512.62 was for the redemption of fractional currency, and $10,115,996.76 was silver paid in lieu of notes and checks.....Gov. Hayes, of Ohio, denies the rumor that he intends to resign the gubernatorial chair.....The cold has reached thirty degrees in southern Russia. It is impossible to move troops in such a temperature.....The Newfoundland herring fisheries report a poor yield and much suffering among the fishermen will result.....The Silver bill passed by the House will not reach the United States Senate this session.....Large lots of ammunition are being shipped from the United States to Turkey and Russia.....Out of $1,000,000 burned up in the American Express Co.'s car on the New York Central road the United States Treasury department identify only $7,500.....There are 215 cities on the earth with a population of over 100,000; twenty-nine of half a million or more and nine cities containing a million or more inhabitants.....Gov. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, has issued a warrant for the execution of John Donohue, to take place March 8, 1877. Donohue was convicted in Carbon county in October last, of the murder of Morgan Powell.....The governors of the Western States have petitioned Congress to help them in the fight against the grasshopper plague.

Peter B. Sweeny, of the old Tweed ring, is to come back to stand trial in a six million dollar civil suit. The district-attorney of New York has offered to fix his bail at $150,000, and has telegraphed that Sweeney must be arrested in any criminal suit until thirty days after the close of the civil trial.....Santo Domingo is troubled with a surfeit of Presidents, having three, who with their cabinets are striving to be recognized as the chief of state.....Counterfeit silver half dollars are in circulation in large numbers. They are a little lighter than the genuine coin and have a greasy feeling.....At Augusta, Ky., seven unknown young men, from Ripley, Ohio, who were on the ice of the Ohio river, were drowned by the breaking of the gorge.....Capt. James Farce shot and attempted to kill his stepson and stepdaughter at Mount Forest, Canada, failing in which he killed himself.....Troy detectives caught two masked burglars in the act of robbing a house in East Schodack, Rensselaer county, N. Y.....The boiler of the tugboat Port Smith exploded in Baltimore harbor, instantly killing a young son of Capt. Riehl and severely scalding two of the hands of the boat.....Ex-President Lerdo, of Mexico, is said to have escaped and to be on the way to San Francisco by water.....New York revenue officers seized 25,000 choice cigars which had been smuggled ashore from a Cuban steamer.....Brewster, Moore & Co.'s large paper mill at Laurel, Ind., was destroyed by fire. Loss about $150,000; insurance, $45,000.

.....An appalling railway disaster occurred near Ashtabula, Ohio, by which over 100 persons lost their lives or were seriously injured. As a night western express was crossing on an iron bridge the structure gave way and precipitated eleven cars seventy-five feet to the river below, crushing through the ice. The portions of the cars not submerged were almost instantaneously in flames, so that the inmates who escaped crushing in the fall died drowning in the water had difficulty to avoid a still more horrible fate. Terrible confusion occurred, the darkness of the night being intensified by a blinding snow-storm. There were 175 persons on the train at the time, two-thirds of whom suffered injuries more or less serious.

Thirty-six bodies were removed from the scene of the Ashtabula disaster. The balance of the unfortunate victims are so completely disorganized that they cannot be recognized or removed. Of the thirty-six recovered, nineteen are recognized and identified. A few of the bodies which were under water show very little mutilation. Others are burned away so that all that is left of a man or woman can be put in a tobacco box. Some are without heads, others without hands or arms; others still are burned away except the large bones of the trunk, the bones either calcined to snowy whiteness or covered with black charred flesh, in some the bowels alone resisted the fire. The faces of such as are best preserved by water wear a look of fearful horror. The eyes are open and staring, tongues protruding, and hands are clinched in agony of nothing, or held as if to ward off a blow from above.

A meeting of citizens of both political parties took place in Chicago relative to the Presidential difficulty, and resolutions of a pacific nature were adopted.....E. A. Woodward, one of the old Tweed ring of New York, has been released after paying some fees to the city authorities. It is now believed that half of the fugitive ring will settle with the city and thus secure their release from law suits.....The governor of Minnesota has issued an appeal to the pastors of the various religious denominations, to the officers of the various charitable associations, and to the humane and philanthropic, individually and collectively, throughout the State of Minnesota, asking for aid for the benefit of the grasshopper sufferers, and to prevent a grasshopper plague. He says that many localities have sustained an almost total loss of crops for four years in succession, and the people who have suffered these constant ravages have been compelled to use not only their farms, but their entire stock and household goods to procure means to avert starvation from their families.....The Mexican authorities on the Rio Grande endeavored to capture an American steamer on the river, but were unsuccessful.....The savings banks of Massachusetts have $243,340,732.66 on deposit.....Two white men were killed and two wounded in an attack by a tribe of Indians within sixteen miles of Red Cloud. The parties had been warned of the other depredations and it is feared killed other miners.....Kreischer & Son, firebrick manufacturers on Staten Island, suffered a loss of $100,000 by the burning of their works. No insurance.....The new census of Peru gives the total population at 2,703,075.....The rebellion in the South American States of Colombia still continues.....A fatal railway collision occurred at Quincy, Ill., by which four of the employees of the road were killed.....A number of men working a snowplow on the railway at Healdville, Vt., were severely injured by running into a train of cars.....On January 1st Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India with great ceremony.....During 1876 New York city suffered from 1,344 fires, with losses aggregating to $2,717,996.....Emperor William, of Germany, held a grand reception of his officers on the seventh anniversary of his entering on a soldier's life.....A terrible disaster occurred at the wreck of the British ship Circassian, which had been on the beach at Bridgehampton, L. I., since the morning of the eleventh of December. Most of the cargo of the steamer had been removed and it was expected that she would be hauled off that day. The gale came on while the steamer lay in this helpless condition on the beach and the waves swept entirely over the wreck. Every effort was made by the life saving station to save those on board, but twenty-eight lives were lost by the disaster. The ship is a wreck. The lost included officers and crew of the steamer and wreckers.

Wade Hampton, of South Carolina, has issued a call for a payment of ten per cent. of the State taxes to his officers.....David Dudley Field was elected by a majority of 6,000 votes from one of the New York city districts in place of Smith Ely, Jr., who resigned to accept the mayoralty.....Passenger rates westward from New York have been advanced about forty per cent.....In order to secure funds to complete the railroad to its coal mines in the Shenandoah valley, the Royal land company of Virginia has mortgaged its property to the Fidelity insurance company of Philadelphia for $3,500,000.....The steamship Emilie sank off the Florida coast and a man and infant were drowned. A boatload of passengers had not arrived ashore at the time of sending the news, but hopes were expressed for their safety.....Heavy snow broke in the roof of the carriage house of A. Garcelon, a Boston livery stable keeper, and ruined a large number of carriages and sleighs. Loss, $10,000.....By the burning of Foshay's hotel, in New York, a small frame building—a number of boarders had a narrow escape from death, as all communication with the lower part of the house was cut off by fire, and it was necessary to take them from the windows with ladders, many of them escaping in their night clothes.....A boarding house at Alta, Utah, was completely buried by a snowslide, and four of the inmates perished, two others being rescued in an unconscious condition.....The infantry of Gen. Crook's expedition, and Gen. McKenzie with the cavalry and artillery, arrived at Fort Laramie and the whole force was disbanded.....The report of the canal auditor of New York State shows the total receipts the past year to have been $1,487,332.89 and the expenses $1,149,194.61; net receipts, $338,138.28—a falling off from the previous year of $120,541.40.

A Sad Case.

A few months ago an elegantly dressed woman, the wife of a rich merchant, was so drunk in a Baltimore street that she could not stand, and a policeman arrested her. Her husband secured her release, and the incident was made a secret. She promised never to drink intoxicating liquor again. Lately she was found lying drunk in a gutter, and this time the husband would do nothing to hide her shame. She was publicly fined in a police court and discarded by her family.

It is not early to bed but early to rves which makes a man poor and gives him red eyes.

UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

Senate.

Mr. Gordon (Dem.), of Georgia, presented a memorial of Wade Hampton, William D. Simpson, William Wallace, and sixty-eight senators and representatives in the General Assembly of South Carolina, relative to the political situation in that State, and setting forth that the petitioners "respectfully apply to your honorable bodies to cause a cessation of the unwarranted interference of the military authorities and the United States troops in the affairs of this State, and for such action as will relieve them from the unwarranted conduct of the United States authorities, hereinbefore set forth, and will enable the governor, lieutenant-governor and House of Representatives peacefully to exercise the rights and perform the duties of the offices to which they have been elected."

Mr. Gordon, by unanimous consent, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved by the Senate, That the State government now existing in the State of South Carolina, and represented by Wade Hampton as governor, is the lawful government of said State; that it is republican in form, and that every assistance necessary to sustain its proper and lawful authority in said State should be given by the United States when properly called upon for that purpose, to the end that the laws may be faithfully and promptly executed, life and property protected and defended, and all violators of law, State or national, brought to speedy punishment for their crimes.

Mr. Morton (Rep.), of Ind., said: "Let that lie over." Mr. Gordon asked that it be printed and lie over. So ordered. There being no quorum present the vote was not taken on the adoption of Mr. Frelinghuysen to refer the memorial to the committee on privileges and elections.

House.

The Speaker laid before the House the message from the President in regard to the extradition treaty with Great Britain. Referred.

The Speaker laid before the House a petition from certain citizens of Cincinnati in regard to counting the electoral vote. A discussion arose as to whether the petition should be read, Mr. Garfield (Rep.), of Ohio, holding that the reading of a petition was out of order, even though presented by the Speaker. Mr. Banning (Dem.), of Ohio, in reply said the Republican party was attempting to defeat the will of the people by fraud, but if there was one thing the people loved more than another—more than life—it was the liberty that was vouchsafed to them in an honest ballot box. He wished to tell the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Garfield) that the people would have an honest ballot box though the army might come with eighty rounds of ammunition, though the navy might be called upon, though the 80,000 officeholders—night be called to the rescue. An honest people would put them all down. Mr. Garfield regretted that his colleague should speak in time of real danger like the present, when the country needed all the wisdom and all the fairness and all the calmness, that he should find it necessary at such a time to hint at what the people would do—that the army might come, that the navy might come, that the trappings of war might rattle, but that the people would come down and overide everything. Other members took part in the discussion. Mr. Frye (Republican), of Maine, in his remarks, said the prosperity of the North was tied up with the prosperity of the South, and in time of peace. The North would not harm the South, would not interfere with it if the colored men were allowed to vote.

Mr. Atkins (Dem.), of Tennessee—Not a man in the South opposes it.

Mr. Frye—Will the gentleman take the testimony of Gen. Sheridan that three thousand colored men have been murdered in Louisiana because they desired to vote?

Mr. Willis (Dem.), of New York—I will not. I will not believe a word of it.

The petition was read and referred.

A Sick Woman's Pet.

A young bedridden woman has lately had an interesting experience with a monstrous rat. She resided with her mother and two sisters in a couple of humble apartments in Liverpool, England. On account of the efforts of her mother and sisters to support their home the invalid was frequently left alone for hours. When all was quiet a huge rat first made his appearance through an aperture in a closet. The sick girl having no fear of rodents threw some crumbs from her table, but for several days the big rat declined and ventured a further than a head's length beyond the hole. Finally he took courage and rushed out for the morsels of bread thrown by the feeble hands; still he made as little delay as possible until the time had grown ripe for closer acquaintance. The invalid gradually induced his ratship to make nearer advances, and he begun to linger after the daily meal and gambol about the floor until the first strange footstep fell upon the threshold, and then he was off like a flash. Then it became one of the poor sick girl's whims to have her rat's daily portion specially laid by, and the fierce looking and anomalous pet at length was coaxed to run up the side of the table and nibble his dinner beside his kindly mistress. Even then he could not be induced to stay if the most stealthy footfall were heard near the door. The only way in which outsiders could watch his movements was through the little windows on the top of the door. At last he permitted himself to be fondled without any treacherous resistance, and the sick girl had not the least fear of him. He was never heard at night, nor was there any sign of him about the premises. Then the feeble hand could serve the strange pet no longer, nor could the poor girl be left alone long enough to assure the tamed rodent that it was safe to come out. She died, and all other efforts to call him out of his hiding place were unavailing. The sick girl had had him in a tame condition for nearly six months.

A Difficult Drill.

At the West Point military school the cadets are taught to ride bareback, to ride without stirrups, to jump hurdles, to use the pistol and saber while riding, to "cut heads to the right and left," and other feats. The "heads" are leather balls about four or five inches in diameter, which are placed on posts of various heights. The trooper moving at a rapid gallop must cut these heads riding to the right and left, and also cut heads resting on the ground, the last a rather difficult feat when done to the left, compelling the rider to swing the saber over his bridle hand and to reach down from a horse sixteen hands high. They also cut heads with the right and left cut at the instant of jumping a hurdle. The most skillful maneuver is the cutting of a head upon the ground between two hurdles placed about forty fe